

Mellor holds talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — British envoy David Mellor held talks Wednesday with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on the situation in the Gulf region and bilateral relations, British embassy officials said. During his one-hour meeting with the Iraqi official, Mellor, minister of state at the Foreign Office, also discussed efforts under way at the United Nations to end the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a British embassy spokesman said. Mellor, an aide to British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe with special responsibility for the Middle East, recently made headlines when he criticised Israel's practices in the occupied territories. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the talks touched on the moves at the United Nations Security Council to impose an arms embargo on Iran for refusing to agree to the world body's peace calls. Aziz recently concluded a visit to China. He told reporters in Peking that the Security Council's five permanent members now support the concept of such an embargo. Mellor arrived in the Iraqi capital late Tuesday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: جريدة سياسية عربية مستقلة المنشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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Regent sends good wishes to Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a cable of good wishes to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jabar Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day anniversary. In the cable, the Regent wished the Emir continued health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the Kuwaiti people.

Mubarak regrets charges against Nasser's son

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak said Wednesday that terrorism allegations against Gamal Abdul Nasser's eldest son won't tarnish the image of the late Egyptian president. Mubarak was quoted as saying he regretted that Khaled Abdul Nasser, 38, was among 20 men charged in connection with four shootings between 1984 and 1987 that killed two Israelis and wounded six others and two Americans. Mubarak spoke at a closed meeting with senior officers of Egypt's 2nd and 3rd armies, both stationed in the Suez Canal zone.

Moscow replaces Azerbaijan party leader

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities Wednesday sacked the Communist Party leader in a region of Soviet Azerbaijan where ethnic Armenians have been demonstrating for reunification with Armenia. TASS news agency reported. The announcement came amid reports of renewed nationalist demonstrations in the Armenian capital of Yerevan and protests in other towns in the republic. Dissident sources said (see page 8). A full meeting of the party committee in the Nagorno-Karabach of Azerbaijan relieved First Secretary Boris Kevorkov of his duties for "shortcomings in his work," it said. His successor was named as Genrikh Pogoyan, first deputy chairman of the regional assembly.

Balkan ministers open meeting

BELGRADE (AP) — The first post-war conference of Balkan foreign ministers opened Wednesday with Albania strongly indicating an end to its self-imposed isolation and signalling a willingness to cooperate with its neighbours. Yugoslav President Lazar Mijovc opened the session of six Balkan countries.

Gold price at lowest level since April

LONDON (R) — The gold price fell to its lowest since April 1987 in London Wednesday, dealers said. It touched a low around \$431.75, down \$10 on Tuesday's London closing price. It recovered to around \$435.00 in later Wednesday trading but dealers said it may remain under pressure.

Junejo to visit Iran

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo will visit Iran next month, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Wednesday. The spokesman said the visit's dates would be announced later.

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Palestinians observe total general strike in W. Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A general strike and violent protests hit the occupied territories Wednesday, along with the first report of an armed Arab attack on Israeli soldiers, as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz prepared to kick off his new peace initiative.

Shultz was expected here Thursday bearing a new American plan to end the 11-week-old Palestinian uprising.

Jerusalem's police force was beefed up by an extra 1,500 officers, twice its normal size, and airport security was made tighter than ever to forestall protests during the Shultz visit.

The army said a bomb exploded on a road near Gaza as a military vehicle was passing about 11 p.m. Tuesday and shots were fired at the soldiers. No one was hurt, the spokesman said. No further details were available.

Until now, protesting Palestinians have avoided using arms in their uprising against the Israeli occupation authorities, restricting their violence to throwing stones, bottles and other objects and

tossing an occasional firebomb.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has said arms would not be used at this stage of the uprising, but did not rule out using guns and explosives at a later point.

About 20 Arabs were arrested over the past couple of days on suspicion of taking part in protests, a police spokesman said. At Silwan, an Arab village inside Jerusalem, all Palestinians leaving the community were checked and searched Wednesday.

Police sources quoted by Reuters said Palestinians lynched an Arab suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities Wednesday after he shot dead a four-year-old boy and wounded

13 people who attacked his home. The incident occurred in the northern West Bank village of Khabatiyeh, near Jenin.

The sources said Mohammad Al Ayad opened fire with an Israeli-licensed Uzi machine gun when villagers set his house on fire. He was taken out and hanged from an electricity pylon with a Palestinian flag, they said.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) said Ayad was "recognised as an Israeli spy."

Israeli sources said only a handful of Palestinians who cooperated with the authorities were licensed to carry automatic weapons for their own protection.

Elsewhere in the occupied territories, Israeli troops shot and wounded four Palestinians during a violent demonstration in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, local residents said.

Israeli and Palestinian sources said the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were paralysed by commercial and transport strikes staged by nearly all the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied areas in protest against the U.S. peace plan.

Amnesty calls for probe into Israeli beatings

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Amnesty International has urged Israel to hold an independent inquiry into army beatings of Palestinian demonstrators that apparently had official backing, a spokesman for the human rights group said Wednesday.

Amnesty's head of research Clayton Yeo said human rights violations were "happening on a large scale and happening with signs of official encouragement" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It looked like a deliberate policy," he said of the beating of Palestinians during the 11-week uprising that began Dec. 9.

"Amnesty was startled by the severity of what was happening. These were not isolated incidents," he told Reuters.

Yeo and two other Amnesty officials arrived here Saturday to push for an inquiry into the Israeli actions by a judicial commission. He said that individual inquiries by the military were not sufficient.

At least 63 Palestinians have been killed in the unrest. Hundreds have suffered gunshot wounds or broken bones as a result of severe beatings. "They have to answer, how did this happen?" Yeo said. "Why did it happen? To what extent was there official encouragement of deviation from established norms and regulations for the use of force?"

The Amnesty mission leaves Thursday and has yet to receive a formal response to the proposal. Yeo declined to say who he had met during the mission.

Socialist rejects 'assurances'
A member of a delegation of European Socialists disputed assurances from the Israeli military governor of Ramallah that the army had no systematic policy of beating Palestinians.

Jan Wiersma, Dutch Labour Party representative of a visiting Socialist International delegation said after talks with the officer, named only as Colonel Ze'ev: "He just denied everything we saw yesterday."

Khayyat accuses Israel of damaging Islamic shrines

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Wednesday accused Israel of damaging two of Islam's holiest shrines with "burning canisters."

"Israeli forces threw burning canisters" into the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosques, causing small fires and injuring worshippers, Khayyat said.

"This incident happened about three weeks ago, but we could not talk about it until he had some pictures as proof of Israel's base plot," he said in a telephone interview.

Police have clashed with protesters and worshippers several times in recent weeks in the mosque compound following Friday prayers.

Al Dustour newspaper Wednesday published photographs of the canisters, which mostly appeared to be various

forms of tear-gas projectiles. "I do know exactly what kind they were, but the newspaper shows some of those canisters," the minister said.

The minister said the canisters injured several people and burned "at least five different places" at Al Aqsa Mosque and three at the Dome of the Rock.

He indicated most of the damage was to the carpets.

"Thank God that there were some guards and worshippers at both mosques who detected the flames and stopped the fire from spreading to surrounding rooms," Khayyat said.

Khayyat said the "base plot meant to scare and harm Muslim worshippers and prevent them from practicing their religious right of praying in those holy places."

Al Dustour earlier quoted him as saying the Israeli action was a "plot aimed at destroying the mosque and rebuilding the Jewish temple of Solomon."

Iraq says Iran lacking enough troops for offensive

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Iran had been unable to muster enough men to launch a much-anticipated major offensive in the Gulf war, newspapers reported Wednesday.

Hussein, in an interview with Kuwaiti newspaper and magazine editors, also said the Iraqi armed forces were now stronger and better equipped to defend Iraq from Iranian attack.

He scoffed at reports that Iran had delayed plans for an offensive because of a Syrian goodwill bid with Tehran, and dropped hints that he wanted Arab leaders to stop trying to patch up his longstanding rift with Damascus.

"The fact is that the number of volunteers they (Iranian leaders) gathered over the past year turned out to be less than the number mobilised for last year's February offensive... which was defeated," Hussein said.

"In addition, our armed forces are now much stronger, better equipped and better trained," he said in the interview, conducted in Baghdad.

Among the Kuwaiti newspapers that published the interview were Al Qabas, Al Seyassah, Al Rai Al Aam, Al Anbaa, Al Watan, the Arab Times and the

Kuwait Times

The Iraqi leader said that the pan-Arab stand in support of Iraq which was demonstrated at the Amman Arab summit in November had bolstered Iraq's military and political standing.

The Iraqi president did not rule out Iranian military action against Iraq "in a bid to divert the attention away from what is going on inside the Israeli-occupied Arab territories."

Hussein said "the failure" of the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement was because of Syria's "disassociation of itself from the resolutions of the Amman summit" on Syrian-Iraqi relations.

He said that mediation was more acceptable before the Amman summit. "But after I met with Syrian President Hafiz Al Assad in the presence of... Arab leaders and discussed all details, there is no need for mediation."

Stressing that there was "no hope in putting an end to Iran's subversive role except by closing all doors to it," he advised the Syrians "if they do not want to sympathise with Iraq, let them show solidarity with Kuwait, with Saudi Arabia, and with the United Arab Emirates if exposed to Iranian aggression."



A scene from the snow hit Amman streets Wednesday (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

Palestinians, U.S. officials deadlocked over proposed meeting with Shultz

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians and U.S. officials have reached an impasse over a proposed meeting between a Palestinian delegation and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who launches a new Middle East peace initiative Thursday.

Palestinians invited to meet Shultz said they would boycott the encounter because the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has banned a meeting in Jerusalem.

"As far as we're concerned there won't be a meeting. The PLO has made clear its conditions," Gaza Strip lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme told the AP in an interview Wednesday.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has approved a meeting in Amman or Cairo that would include Palestinians from both the occupied territories and outside, according to Hanna Siniara, who reportedly met with PLO leaders in Europe Monday.

But Shultz, who arrives here

Thursday, has refused to meet Palestinians anywhere but Jerusalem, according to an informed U.S. government source.

"We're not taking directions from the PLO on how to meet with Palestinians," the source told the AP on condition of anonymity. "Meeting outside Jerusalem is a no-go."

It is considered to be critical to the credibility of his peace initiative that Shultz meet with Palestinians during his five days in the region.

But David Good, spokesman for the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem, said he had no guarantees a meeting would take place.

"We'll see. We still have a little bit of time left. Mr. Shultz wants to have Palestinians involved in the process and would like to meet Palestinians in Jerusalem," he said.

Shultz admits he is up against widespread scepticism. "Well, I don't think people give me much chance of success," he said in Brussels Tuesday.

Analysts say the only glimmer of hope rests with new-found confidence in relations between Washington and Moscow.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said he welcomed Shultz's trip, even though it was doubtful it would succeed. Moscow supports the Arab demand for an international conference as a way of thrashing out a durable solution.

In Damascus, U.S. embassy officials said Shultz was scheduled to visit Damascus during his tour but declined to give his schedule. But informed sources said Shultz was likely to arrive in Damascus Saturday.

The U.S. plan carried by Shultz calls for an "international meeting" in April before direct Arab-Israeli talks on limited "self-rule" for the Palestinians.

Although Syria has dismissed the proposals as an inadequate attempt to impose a partial solution, officials said they were willing to listen to Washington's ideas.

3 killed in W. Beirut car blast

BEIRUT (R) — A powerful bomb concealed in a taxi killed three people when it exploded in a crowded residential area of west Beirut Wednesday, witnesses said.

Explosives packed in the rear of the beige Mercedes went off near an Iraqi bank and the Greek embassy, covering the street with pools of blood, twisted metal and shattered glass.

The taxi driver, a woman passenger and a vegetable seller in a nearby shop died in the blast, which tore the back from the charred vehicle.

Civil defence rescuers said three people were also injured. "Our car had just passed the taxi and we were only a few metres ahead when the explosion shook the area," a Syrian plainclothes security man told Reuters.

Syrian and Lebanese soldiers sealed off the area, firing into the air as ambulances sped to the scene.

Earlier Wednesday, Syrian troops evacuated hundreds of people from Beirut airport after an anonymous bomb threat, airport sources said.

A telephone caller told airport operators at 1:20 p.m. (11:20 GMT) a bomb was set to explode in the passenger terminal "at any minute," they said.

"The Syrians quickly emptied the terminal and ordered hundreds of people out. Then they searched the place thoroughly," one source said.

No bomb was found and the sources said air traffic was not affected.

SS-12s leave E. Germany today

EAST GERMANY (Agencies) — Soviet troops will start withdrawing nuclear missiles from two bases at opposite ends of East Germany Thursday, before the treaty scrapping them is ratified, the East German Foreign Ministry said.

Announcing the move Wednesday, spokesman Wolfgang Meyer said it was meant to create favourable conditions for the U.S.-Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty to be implemented and was aimed at boosting East-West confidence.

A similar Western gesture was now expected, he said.

"The announced withdrawal... will begin tomorrow," Meyer said in a statement printed on the front pages of East German newspapers and made available to reporters.

Moscow's elite rocket forces, among 380,000 Soviet troops

based in East Germany, will begin leaving by train Thursday from Waren in the north and Bischofswerda in the south with a first group of shorter-range SS-12 missiles.

According to the treaty memorandum, there are 22 SS-12s at Waren, a lakeside town, and eight at Bischofswerda near Dresden. Both bases have training rockets and mobile launchers.

Moscow says the SS-12s will be kept at destruction sites deep in the Soviet Union until the treaty is ratified. Moscow has 54 SS-12s at four East German bases and 53 SS-23s at two others. There are 39 SS-12s in Czechoslovakia, the only other Warsaw Pact ally where nuclear forces are stationed.

An announcement in Czechoslovakia's Communist Party daily newspaper Rude Pravo said the SS-12 Soviet missiles stationed on Czech territory would be removed "in the next few days."

East Germany announced last week that SS-12s had been dismantled, put into crates and were ready for transport back to the Soviet Union.

But it had not announced until Wednesday when the missiles would be transported out of the country.

East German leader Erich Honecker indicated in January that Soviet nuclear missiles in Europe could be removed ahead of schedule.

In 1983, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) began installing U.S. cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe to counteract Soviet missiles pointed at the west.

The Kremlin responded by moving some SS-12 missiles from their bases in the Soviet Union to East Germany and Czechoslovakia, to put them within striking range of the West.

Moscow: Pakistan blocking Afghan peace

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov accused Pakistan Wednesday of obstructing an Afghan peace settlement by supporting a blueprint for a transitional government put forward by the main rebel alliance.

Referring to a comment by Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani that Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's plan for withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan amounted to an ultimatum, Gerasimov told reporters:

"If we really speak of an ultimatum, such an approach is taken by Islamabad with its support for the Peshawar alliance of seven."

Seven Afghan rebel leaders based in Peshawar, Pakistan, announced Tuesday that they would shortly form an interim government allotting a minor role

to supporters of the Soviet-backed administration in Kabul.

This transitional government should sign any United Nations negotiated peace settlement rather than the administration of Afghan President Najibullah, they said.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman described the rebel announcement as a positive step.

Gerasimov said the transitional government could not be accepted as the legitimate representative of the Afghans.

"It is an attempt to torpedo the process of national reconciliation, undermine the Geneva talks and frustrate the attainment of final agreements there," he said.

Armistice in Pakistan

A senior U.S. envoy briefed Pakistani officials Wednesday of Afghan peace talks but Pakistan and the Afghan rebels differed

Snow blizzard hits Jordan

By Nermeen Murad
and agency dispatches

AMMAN — In a scene not witnessed here in eight years, the capital changed colours Tuesday night as a white blanket of snow obliterated the features of the city, knocking out electricity lines and leaving hundreds of people trapped in streets or offices while cars slid and bumped into each other in dozens of accidents.

The cold front, which started hitting the Kingdom three days ago, brought with it eight centimetres of snow in the capital, while almost 16 centimetres fell in the southern mountain towns of Shobak, Raas Munief and Raas Nagab, according to Ali Abanda, director of the Meteorological Department.

Abanda was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that "this is the coldest air mass for this season," which started in October and ends in May.

Abanda said the storm moved down from the North Pole through Turkey, Greece and the Soviet Union, and was expected to bring a precipitation of more than 15 centimetres of snow to Amman by the end of the day Wednesday.

Abanda also predicted that a similar storm was expected before Friday, this time coming from Italy.

A source in the Public Security Department told the Jordan Times that "there were about 150 minor accidents but there were no major injuries or fatalities reported." The department said all roads in the Kingdom had been reopened for traffic by Wednesday evening.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, visited the Civil Defence Department's operations room Wednesday and reviewed operations of the department in facing the hazards of the weather.

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia knows who is holding U.S. hostage William Higgins and where the kidnappers are, but does not want to use force to free him, Muslim political sources said Wednesday.

U.S. judge rejects confession of alleged hijacker

U.N. discusses PLO mission closure Monday

The U.S. Congress has passed a law ordering the observer mission closed by March 22, despite a 1947 treaty in which the United States agreed to let official U.N. delegations function.

Death of alleged hi

Witness: Mediator may have helped in Beirut abduction

Ronnie Andrea Klein, the former girlfriend of Lebanese businessman Rashid Mahroum, said she had "a feeling from the start that he (Mahroum) might be involved in the kidnappings."

acker

or may have abduction

The West German government arranged for Mahroum to act as a middleman with the captors of Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt after they were kidnapped in January 1987 in Beirut.

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait celebrates 27 years of independence Thursday amid a rare winter quiet on the nearby Iran-Iraq warfront.

The proliferation of warships from seven countries that resulted has contained, but not eliminated hit-and-run strikes by

Kuwaiti officials express confidence that Iran will not make

But the diplomats cautioned that Kuwait remains threatened by an overspill of the war as long as the conflict continues.

KHAN YUNIS, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Adel Ali Massoud said Tuesday that when soldiers took him to the Mediterranean beach near here, beat him and buried him in the sand, they told him: "Don't think you are going to return alive."

The youth said he did not know how deeply he was buried, but

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Bechtel Corp. offered in 1985 to sell Israel oil at reduced rates for 10 years in return for a 40% cost

"This is a man who sees 10 people every day. Thirty per cent of them come with crazy ideas," the official said on condition of

According to the mother, soldiers also grabbed her 10-year-old son Sami, and one stuck a gun

anonymity. "He just says 'Yes, Yes. We'll think about it.' That's how things work in Israel."

The pipeline, which would have run from Iraq through Jordan, was never built. But the memo has become the focal point of a criminal investigation into

Gaza Attorney Mohammad Abu Shaaban wants to press the case in the supreme court in

whether Meese knew of a possibly improper payment. Peres has denied any wrongdoing.

oil port near Israel's border," the official said. "The thinking was that this would put Iraq in a position where it would not be able to wage war with Israel, out of concern for its pipeline."

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TV & RADIO	WHAT'S GOING ON	FOR THE TRAVELLER	USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 75111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:40 Programme Review 15:55 Children's programmes 16:05 Mop and Smiff 16:20 Children's programmes 17:15 World of Magic 17:35 French teaching programme 18:15 Men and Machine 18:40 He's the Mayor 19:05 Health and Life! 19:35 World News Report 19:50 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:20 Review of next week's programmes PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Rue Carnot 18:05 News in French 18:15 French Varieties 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 19:50 News in Arabic 20:30 Kate and Allie 21:10 Rats to Riches 22:00 News in English Feature film "Into the Night" — Vera Miles, Irene Papas, Jeff Gold Blum RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM & partly on 5600 KHz SW Tel: 74111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:15 Morning Show Contd. 11:00 Country Music 11:30 Hitsville: The story of Motown 12:00 News Summary 12:45 News Music 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumentals 14:30 My Music 15:02 Concert Hour 16:13 News Summary 16:45 Instrumentals 16:50 Old Favourites 17:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown 17:30 Pop Session 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Our Mutual Friend 19:30 Music FOR FRIDAY JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 75111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 10:00 Koran 10:30 Programme Review 10:40 Rainbow Rite 10:50 Cartoons and Children's programmes 11:20 Religious series 12:20 Friday's prayer 14:30 Sport magazine 14:50 Art and Crafts 15:15 Variety 16:35 Arabic Comedy 17:15 Believe It or Not 18:05 News reports 18:30 Viewers' choice (Arabic) 19:20 Local programmes 19:50 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 A programme on the West Bank	TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS ★ Art exhibition about the works of German artist Horst Janssen at the Petra Bank Gallery in Wadi Saqra (until Feb. 26). ★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Kewani at the Housing Bank Gallery. ★ A photo exhibitions about architecture in Spain at the Spanish Cultural Centre (Feb. 22 to March 3). ★ An art exhibition by Mohammad Al Jalawi at the Alia Art Gallery (until Feb. 27). ★ An exhibition of prints by Rima Farah at the Gallery of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel (until Feb. 29). ★ An exhibition to commemorate German composers Heinrich Schütz and Johann Bach at Yarmouk University (until March 3). FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL ★ Tonight's film "Quatre Aventures de Reinette et Mirabelle" at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Feb. 25). ★ Absence of Malice" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre. ★ "Elli Briest" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the Evangelical Lutheran community. FILMS ★ Tonight's film "Quatre Aventures de Reinette et Mirabelle" at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Feb. 25). ★ Absence of Malice" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre. ★ "Elli Briest" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the Evangelical Lutheran community. BRITISH HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK Today Feb. 25 is the open day of the British Higher Education Week at 8:00 p.m. at the British Council.	QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 09:15 Agaba (RU) 09:30 Kuwait (KU) 09:40 Jeddah (RJ) 09:50 Dhahran (RU) 09:55 Dubai, Bahrain (RU) 10:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RU) 17:35 New York, Vienna (RU) 18:00 Athens (RU) 18:15 London, Geneva (RU) 18:45 Bucharest, Larnaca (RU) 19:45 Rome (RU) 06:30 Baghdad (RU) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 12:10 Cairo (MS) 12:15 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 13:40 Kuwait (KU) 14:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 15:00 Riyadh (SF) 15:30 Baghdad (LA) 16:30 Amman (RJ) 18:35 Cairo (MS) 19:15 Frankfurt (LF) 20:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SF) 20:25 Paris (AF) 06:25 London, Cairo (BA) DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:00 Agaba (RU) 10:30 Bucharest (RU) 18:30 Larnaca, Athens (RU) 18:45 Rome (RU) 12:00 Frankfurt, London (RU) 12:15 Brussels, Paris (RU) 19:35 Kuwait (RU) 19:45 Dubai, Muscat (RU) 20:00 Jeddah (RJ) 20:00 Abu Dhabi (RU) 20:05 Cairo (RU) 20:20 Bahrain, Doha (RU) 21:00 Baghdad (RU) 21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RU) 22:00 Bangkok (RU) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:20 Frankfurt (LF) 12:30 Bahrain, Doha, Abu Dhabi (RH) 15:00 Kuwait (KU) 15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 16:30 Baghdad (AL) 16:40 Riyadh (SF) 19:30 Cairo (MS) 20:00 Sana'a (LF) 22:05 Baghdad (ALF) PRAYER TIMES 04:45 Fajr 05:05 Sunrise/Dawn 11:49 Dhur 15:41 'Asr 17:29 Maghreb Isha WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered showers in the hilly areas. A slight rise in temperature is expected during the day. In Amman, there will be freshening variable winds and calm seas. Min./max. temp. Amman 0 / 10 Jordan Valley 5 / 18 Dead Sea -1 / 12 Jericho 17 / 17 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 89 per cent, Agaba 32 per cent.	EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Qazwaineh 770735 Civil Defence Deira Alia 664730 Ambulance 193, 751111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 63041 Blood Bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 620290-3 Fire headquarters 620290-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 88047 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771256 Queen Alia Int'l. Airport (08)5330060 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Majed Abu Suaid 891635 Dr. Bahjat Bader 849564 Dr. Mahmoud Allan 894866 Dr. Naji Tayyar 885444 First pharmacy 66191 Ferdows pharmacy 778336 Al Asena pharmacy 637055 Nakroukh pharmacy 623672 Bilal Salan pharmacy 636767 Yacoub pharmacy 644445 Shamsi pharmacy 637660 TAKIS: Al Walida taxi 641833 Khaldoun taxi 664888 Bessam taxi 811857 Hajm taxi 817411 Baleesam taxi 854120 Bahrain taxi 779304 Jemzawi taxi 996740 IRBID: Dr. Issam Al Saleh 274722 Sharna's pharmacy 275823 ZARQA: Dr. Akram Hadad 985530 Khalifeh pharmacy 985417 GENERAL Jordan Television 77311/19 Radio Jordan 77411/19 Ministry of Tourism 642211 Hotel Al-Jadid 644432 Phone complaints 661766 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Crescent calls 10 Repair service 11

Anani back after energy conference in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) took part in an international solar energy conference which ended in the Iraqi capital Wednesday.

RSS President Jawad Al Anani, who led the Jordanian delegation, said that he presented working papers to the conference outlining the RSS's research programmes in the use of solar energy for domestic and other purposes.

The four-day conference grouped scientists from America, Asia and Europe who discussed different aspects of solar energy use and its application, Anani noted.

The conference, he said, undermined the importance of exploiting solar power, and cooperation among Arab countries in promoting its use for different purposes.

"Jordan has already gone a long way in research programmes for the application of solar energy, in power generation, air conditioning and heating of water for domestic use," Anani noted.

During the conference, Anani held side meetings with heads of delegations, to explore Jordan's cooperation with their organisations and countries in solar energy fields, and also in the manufacture of building materials.

Anani delivered a speech to the conference calling for more cooperation among world nations in finding alternative sources of energy, and in the use of solar and other forms of power. He urged the delegations to increase the exchange of their expertise with other countries and share their experience.



Jawad Al Anani

According to the RSS chief, the conference discussed 120 research works by Arab and foreign scientists and heard 41 lectures dealing with modern technology in the exploitation of solar power and renewable energy.

The biennial meeting, he said, is expected to be held in Amman in two years from now.

Madi gets award

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred upon Jordan's Ambassador to Italy Tareq Madi with the Independence Medal of the First Order.

Bani Hani tours Jordan Valley

KARAK (Petra) — Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Acting President Mohammad Bani Hani paid an inspection tour of the southern Jordan Valley region and examined on-going process for distributing agricultural units and homes to farmers in Ghor Al Safi and Mazraa.

Bani Hani toured projects being carried out by the JVA in the region, specially those aimed at reclamation of land and the exploitation of aquifers.

He was accompanied on the tour by the district governor of Ghor Al Safi Abdul Karim Malahmeh and local officials.

Safety committee closes 6 shops

TAFLEH (Petra) — Six different commercial shops were closed and thirteen others were warned by the Public Safety Committee in the governorate for not complying with the basic rules of public safety.

Aref Irshaid, mayor of Tafleah and president of the committee, warned all shop and restaurant owners to abide by the rules of general safety.

Masri returns after signing minutes of discussions in Sanaa

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri returned to Amman Wednesday at the end of his three-day official visit to North Yemen where he delivered a message to North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with current Arab affairs, the Middle East situation and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

During the visit, Masri led Jordan's delegation to the Joint Jordanian North Yemeni Higher Committee meetings which culminated with the signing of minutes on the discussions covering cooperation in cultural, educational, scientific, technical, agricultural, touristic, economic and trade fields.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf who accompanied Masri to the talks said that the meetings were a complete success. The joint committee, he said, passed several recommendations designed to promote North Yemeni-Jordanian trade and economic cooperation.

North Yemen has agreed on issuing licences in implementation of a bilateral agreement providing for both sides to exchange trade worth \$10 million annually, and also agreed on encouraging the exchange of goods and commodities with Jordan giving preferential treatment to trade with the Kingdom.

According to Saqqaf, an agreement was reached on conducting joint studies for setting up joint investment projects in North Ye-

men and Jordan especially in transportation, electricity, agriculture, and construction.

The two sides agreed to offer facilities to each other for the registration of medicine manufactured in either country, giving preferential treatment to such goods traded between them, and also on exchanging expertise in matters related to quality control, and specifications and measures, Saqqaf noted.

He said that in education the Yemeni side asked to be supplied with 500 Jordanian teachers to work in Yemeni schools in the coming 1988-1989 scholastic year increasing this number to 2,000 in the coming three years.

Jordan will also send 60 civil, electrical and mechanical engineers to North Yemen.

North Yemen has also asked to be provided with 300 Jordanian doctors and health technicians, Saqqaf noted.

He said Jordan in return will

provide North Yemeni personnel with training in agriculture, antiquities, civil service, social affairs and labour, electricity, health, security, housing and planning fields.

In a separate development in Amman, a training programme on international marketing and promoting exports, in which eight officials from Jordan and North Yemen participated, ended Wednesday after a four week discussion of current trends in trade cooperation.

The programme which was organised by the Jordanian Management Centre, dealt with the different aspects of trade cooperation and procedures adopted in trade, as well as surveying scientific means of promoting exports and developing markets.

The participants in the programme went on field trips to some of the local factories which have an exporting capacity to study their status and possibilities for its future development.

U.S. analyst voices reservation over Soviet involvement in Mideast peace

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — On the eve of a Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, an American political analyst voiced his reservation over a Soviet involvement in the search for peace in the region.

Robert Hunter, from the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said he was "very deeply sceptical whether (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev wants to play an active role" in the search for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Speaking Tuesday via satellite link with local journalists, Hunter claimed the Soviets would obstruct peace dialogue in the event of a deal U.S.-Soviet dialogue.

"I don't have any objections to

the Soviets involvement in the Arab-Israeli peace-making. But before that happens I'd like to have some kind of idea that the Soviets are going to do it because maybe they care about moving towards peace, towards meeting the human needs rather than just getting their foot in the door or making more mischief," the American observer said.

He called on Moscow to restore diplomatic ties with Israel as a prerequisite to take part in future peace dialogue to solve the Middle East problem.

The Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations with Israel in the aftermath of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and made it clear that restoring ties with Tel Aviv is contingent on Israeli troops withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

His Majesty King Hussein has called for a Soviet involvement in the proposed international Middle East peace conference as part of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Cement leaves for Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A cargo vessel has left Agaba carrying 3,150 tonnes of Jordanian cement bound for Sudan.

The shipment, in implementa-

tion of a trade agreement signed by the two countries, raises the total amount of cement sent to Sudan so far to 9,210 tonnes.

Landmark building returns to its former glory

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Architectural Gallery reopened its doors last week in its new premises, an old and very beautiful house in Jabal Amman.

The house which was built in the late 1920's for one of the country's past prime ministers, Tawfiq Abulhuda has been carefully renovated in recent months by the founder of the gallery, Akram Abu Hamdan.

Although abandoned for many years and left literally to rot by the last two owners, Abu Hamdan first took an interest in the old house over five years ago, when he approached the previous owner who was only interested in demolishing it and selling the empty plot to a local bank.

Even then, despite its terrible state of disrepair, the building's unusual beauty stood out against the backdrop of downtown Amman. Built on a natural rock podium that is reached by a wide and elegant flight of 28 steps, the house is highly reminiscent of those found in the Eastern Mediterranean coastal regions. Its front facade, in its perfect proportions belongs to what

might be known as regional classicism, its symmetry enhanced by two towering Washingtonias which stand sentinel each side of the tri-arched verandah.

Inside, the typical layout of a Syrian Liwan plan — a central hall off which open four square rooms — is stunning. Filled with light from the tall narrow windows which are complemented by slim double leafed doorways, these high ceilinged rooms make for a stimulating and exciting internal space. "I believe it is one of the most beautiful houses in Amman" Abu Hamdan told the Jordan Times. "It is a living testament of the sophistication and ability of the few early active and highly productive craftsmen who came to this country in the 1920's, reinforcing the tradition already established in older Jordanian cities and giving substance to the idea that Jordan does not just have nomadic roots but strong urban ones too."

Who designed the house is not quite clear, but there is some evidence that points to the fact that it was constructed by two different masons. The lower floor is of a different character to the top floor both in the style of the openings and in the choice and

drinking of the stone, giving substance to the story that the mason who started building the lower floor was unable to construct the refined arches and columns of the main floor. The work was finally completed by Lebanese mason Thiab Abu Hamdan, Akram Abu Hamdan's great uncle, something which certainly added to the attraction the building already held for him.

Threat of demolition

Until Akram Abu Hamdan negotiated to lease the house from its present owner, the building had in recent years been under the constant threat of demolition. The only thing preventing its final destruction being the onset of the current economic situation.

"One of the positive aspects of any economic recession," Abu Hamdan explained, "is to give people scope to reconcile themselves with the times. During the last building boom, the strong preoccupation with speedy development and progress caused the making of rash and irrational decisions which resulted in the loss of many fine early buildings in the city. Now one looks back and remembers the Bilbaisi House, a beautiful and very early villa that stood next to the Amphitheatre. This was pulled down four years ago, and we ask ourselves why? It has been replaced by nothing and where it once grandly stood is an empty space, a place for dumping rubbish. Then there was the Frayeh House. It was pulled down to make a car park, a fate which also befell the Ibrahim Hashem House. On the floor tiles of a house where some important decisions must have been made concerning the development of the country, people now park their cars. Then there was the Jami' al Talhounie, a small and delightfully proportioned mosque which reminded people of the modest beginnings of this country. Now its just some more shops capped by a make-do mosque."

"It is vital," Abu Hamdan continued, "to our modern history that structures like these should remain, although not great works of art these buildings witnessed the establishment of this country in its modern form and as such should be preserved for our children. If we continue to knock down these buildings, it will be like erasing a major part of our history only to replace it with something insignificant and built solely for commercial gain. It will be a great loss if 30 years from now our grandchildren have only shiny aluminium facades to re-



The front facade of the Abulhuda House seen after the renovation

mind them of their heritage."

Against all odds

Abu Hamdan took the house over in August of last year and in the following months has restored it to something of its original glory. Always keeping the sense of the period in mind he retiled some of the floors, painted the walls and replaced fixtures and fittings just as they would have been often sitting through old stock in various stores to find what he needed. The time, thought and care gone into the renovation is apparent in the end result.

As well as the gallery the building is also houses the architectu-

ral practice of Akram Abu Hamdan Associates. By moving his practice from the prestigious location of the Riyadh Centre — a mirror glass curtain wall building off the Third Circle — to an older property Abu Hamdan is going in the opposite direction of the current trend of businesses to get away from downtown.

"Against all odds," Abu Hamdan said, "and despite the parking problems and other inconveniences, we have moved back downtown, leaving behind more commercially attractive and easily accessible office premises. We had had enough of false ceilings and controlled environments and wanted to be in a much more stimulating working space. It also

provides a more dramatic space for the gallery."

Inaugurating the gallery's new premises is an exhibition entitled "Architecture and Urban Environment." Prepared by the Municipality of Paris and held in co-operation with the French Cultural Centre, the exhibition shows via panels of coloured photographs and drawings, how the planning policy of the city of Paris succeeded in combining modernity and tradition through the preservation of old buildings and quarters while giving room to some exciting and controversial structures. Opened by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rayabdeh, the exhibition will continue until Feb. 18.



Architectural Gallery, Abulhuda House seen before the renovation in August 1987

Hamzeh visits Al Bashir Hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday visited Al Bashir Hospital in Amman and inspected work at its various sections and heard about emergency assistance to cases resulting from the snow-storm that hit the capital over the past two days.

The minister also inspected cases in which people sustained burns from misuse of their heaters during the cold front, and met with a number of citizens coming into the emergency section for treatment.

The minister inspected progress of work at the hospital X-ray section.

The Ministry Secretary-General Dr. Anwar Belbeisi contacted all directors of health depart-



Zaid Hamzeh

ments and ministry hospitals throughout the country, to ensure the running of medical services at these hospitals.

Dr. Belbeisi said that the ministry hospitals have taken all measures to deal with emergencies coming as a result of the current weather conditions.

Agricultural Department meets success in Ma'an

MAAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has announced the success of experiments on growing apple trees and vines in the southern governorate of Maan.

An Agriculture Department spokesman here said that out of a total of 1,710 dunums of land

planted with vines and apple trees 550 proved successful.

He said that the soil and the underground water in the Maan region were quite useful for growing vines, apples and stone-fruit trees in abundance.

Chairman of Soviet Religious Affairs council arrives Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the Soviet Union's Council on Religious Affairs Costantin Kharachev is due in Amman Friday on a five-day visit to Jordan.

Kharachev is expected to hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on means of bolstering bilateral relations in teaching Arabic for Soviet Muslim students

and recruiting preachers for mosques in the Soviet Union.

Also to be discussed is the question of scholarships which Jordan offers to Soviet students to study religious affairs in the kingdom.

Kharachev and his accompanying delegation will tour Jordan's cultural and Islamic institutions and archaeological sites.

Music conservatory sponsors violin and piano concert

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation is sponsoring a concert of music for violin and piano on Monday, Feb. 29, 1988, at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Kelly Barr, an eighteen-year-old violinist who recently won the Chicago Symphony Competition, and Joseph Holt, a 1984 winner of the Brahms Piano Competition, will play a programme of music by Haydn, Tchaikovsky,

Chopin, Manuel de Falla, Griffes, and Kreisler.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance can be purchased at the RCC for JD 3.

Kelly Barr and Joseph Holt will also present special morning concerts for children at 10:30 Sat. Feb. 27, and Sunday, Feb. 28.

Interested schools may contact the RCC for further details. Tickets for the children's concerts are JD 1.

Department of Antiquities studies Karak fortress

KARAK (Petra) — The Department of Antiquities is currently involved in a comprehensive study on the Karak Crusaders Fortress prior to carrying out a restoration programme.

Department Director in Karak, Nabil Baga'in said that teams from his office were taking photographs of the areas where restoration work is to be conducted before work can begin.

Omani guides graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Hotel Training Institute Wednesday graduated a batch of Omani tourist guides and Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni said the government was in the process to expand the institute to make it a regional institution that could

accommodate more students from Arab states.

Ajlouni stressed the need for more cooperation between the Ministry of Tourism and institutions of higher education in the region.



Agricultural Gallery, Abulhuda House seen after the renovation in February 1988

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Responsible Editor and Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
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Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 666265-2

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Looking beyond Shultz's visit

WHILE much of the focus of interest in the Arab World in the Mideast trip of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has examined possible new American attitudes to peace-making, we feel that a more likely opportunity for change may lie within the Israeli political structure. The American position, however good or bad we may judge it to be, will almost invariably reflect an American power structure and national decision-making process that gets its impulses more from Israel than from the Arab World. The slight but real change that has been registered in the American position, particularly about the international conference proposal, has come in the wake of a combination of Arab persistence and an increasing willingness by Israeli leaders of the Labour-leftist persuasion to consider the proposal.

There is some political ferment taking place within Israel, characterised by a real debate about how Israel should deal with the current Palestinian uprising, and how Israel should envisage the ultimate political status of the Palestinians and their land. Mr. Shultz's visit, in itself, is not the key factor to ponder today; the key factor is how far his trip and his ideas are symptomatic of a changed political atmosphere in the United States and in Israel. There is debate in Israel about the possibility of withdrawal from the occupied territories and about how to engage the Palestinians and the concerned Arab states in a meaningful negotiation. It is in our interest to promote this debate, and to make it more clear to reasonable Israelis that negotiations can indeed lead to the twin aims of Israeli security and Arab national rights. Both the Labour and Likud factions of the Israeli government have suggested the break-up of the coalition in order to decide on the future path of peace-making. It would be useful to find out if a majority of Israelis have learned from the Palestinian uprising that Israeli-Palestinian peace and justice can be achieved through genuine negotiations, based on the premise that both people have identical national rights. An election in Israel is one way to find out — assuming that the Labour-leftist end of the political spectrum in Israel would make this a major issue of the campaign. The facts, to date, do not suggest that this is likely to happen, as the Labour camp has traditionally shied away from taking this big issue directly to the voters in Israel. The Arabs can and should help this process along.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan welcomes peace efforts

JORDAN has always welcomed efforts, by any party, in search for a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, a settlement that must be based on granting the Palestinian people their national rights including the right to self-determination. It is an established fact that the Middle East conflict was triggered by the Israeli invasion of the Arab land and will continue so long as the Israelis maintain their occupational policies. Based on this position, Jordan will deal with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in his current tour of the region and with ideas and proposals he is carrying, ideas that are essential to reactivate the stalemated peace process in the Middle East. Jordan and the rest of Arab countries have already made up their stand vis-a-vis the American new proposals. Their position has remained that all political efforts which do not boil down to convening an international Middle East peace process will reach a fiasco, as did other previous efforts. Amman's welcome of Shultz's visit reflects the Kingdom's confidence that the U.S. could play an essential role in the search for peace in the region should it bear its responsibility as a superpower and should it agree that the basis for peace should be based on international legitimacy.

Al Dustour: Arabs to adopt joint stand

ON the eve of a visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the Arab countries have adopted a joint stand which reflects the Arab Nation's views about the Middle East question and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arabs are in total agreement that a U.N.-sponsored international conference should be held and that all concerned parties and the U.N. Security Council members should be involved in such a conference for the sake of achieving a lasting peace in the area. The Arabs are serious and determined to achieve a durable and comprehensive peace; that means that they refuse any partial solutions or autonomy rule as advocated by Israel and provided for by the Camp David accords. The Arabs are agreed on the question of swapping land for peace within the context of Security Council Resolution 242 which can guarantee a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab land occupied since 1967. Had the Arabs not convened their summit meeting last November, they would not have arrived at this concerted stand and a total consensus and agreement on future steps.

Sawt Al Shaab: New ideas needed

AMMAN, which hosted the November Arab summit and adhered to its historical resolutions, believes that the success of any peace efforts in the region should be based on a genuine desire to convene an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Such a conference should be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Against this backdrop of political realities, the United States current peace proposal, commendable as it is by the international community including the Soviet Union, should carry to the region new ideas based on the new circumstances in the region. The path to peace, as viewed by the Amman Arab summit, should pass through an international conference. This line was echoed many times by Egypt and recently its foreign minister reiterated that Cairo remained "opposed to any new proposals based on the Camp David treaties." Jordan, for its part, welcomes Shultz's current tour of the Middle East in order to make various standpoints to interact positively towards peace. Observers' belief that the U.S. secretary of state's mission is a very difficult one and will further remain so as long as the American administration's regional perspective remained biased to the Israeli side.

Minimum wage revisited

By Nayef S. Zubi

THE FOLKLORE about the economic profession suggests that economists do not agree on anything. This is obviously a misconception. The apparent disagreement among economists only reflects the intricate nature of economic problems, and the difficulty of putting one's economic propositions into a final test, in a controlled experiment setting. The notion that economics is not an exact science the way physics is arises from the latter difficulty.

One area where a broad agreement among economists exists relates to the economic consequences of enacting minimum wage laws, or in general the impact of wage and price controls. Economists agree that the government should be out of the business of setting wages and prices. Prices and wages should be settled in the marketplace.

The recent article of Dr. Fahd Fanek (Jordan Times, Dec. 20, 1987) on minimum wage is important in two respects. One, it contains a sensible economic analysis, and shows that good economists — the rarest among birds as Keynes once noted — need not ride the tide of cheap popularity at the expense of their fundamental beliefs. Another, it proves, as my subsequent remarks will indicate, that agreement among economists does exist.

My general inclination to oppose the expansion of the functions of existing government agencies, or creating new agencies, arise from that the end result will be expanding an existing bureaucracy, and not expanding economic opportunities. The creation of new government offices to oversee the wage and price controls is no exception. Also, to circumvent new laws and regulations, legions of accountants and lawyers will be needed. The end beneficiaries will be those lawyers and accountants. The history of wage and price control starting from the Roman emperor Diocletian and ending with President Nixon's 1971 episode is dismal. Proponents of such policies do not have much to show or tell in a positive sense.

It would be a sheer fantasy to believe that enacting minimum wage laws or re-activating one that already exists would solve the

unemployment problem. Putting on hold the very purpose of a price — wage is a price of a labour service — that is providing informational efficiency required for proper allocation of resources, and for proper distribution of income, is counterproductive. It is a recipe for waste. Whenever the powers of the price and wage determination are transferred to the government from their natural determinants — the markets — the potential for abuse is unlimited. The threat to individual liberty regardless of all tears shedding on the lot of those unfortunate among us will materialise. Enacting minimum wage laws is a glaring example of a legislation without representation.

It is not difficult to understand that the demand for labour services is less the higher is the price, assuming that the minimum wage is enacting on the upper side of the wage range, which I suppose to be the rationale of those crying for its enactment. The long-term effects will be less employment of those labour categories, the law is enacted to help. It is only logical to expect that firms will substitute inferior but relatively cheaper goods and services in place of high priced ones. Firms will at the enacted minimum wage employ relatively more skilled labour. Deserving workers will be promoted out of lower-paying job categories into higher paying ones to avoid wage controls. The shift from labour to other non-labour substitutes could be triggered at some levels of enacted wages.

A teenager with little or no training at all, ill-prepared for his or her first job, will be the victim of the minimum wage law. People with no prerequisite skills usually have their first training on their first job. Their services are simply not worth much. They are not Harvard MBAs. The minimum wage law will only single them out from getting their first job. Once they are unemployed for a while, they become unemployable. Once they are unemployable, they develop hostile attitudes that are hard to change.

The minimum wage law in effect requires that a teenager whose services are valued at say JD 100 per month, to remain unemployed

at unattainable wage of say JD 150 per month, rather than being employed at JD 100 — the right price for his services. In effect, the law also asks firms to give away a charity of JD 50 per month to employ that person. Business cannot survive if they base their decisions on charity. They do if their decisions are guided by profit motives. They can survive if they are cost effective.

In the United States, unemployment is hitting the hardest those the minimum wage laws were enacted to help: Minorities, disadvantaged and teenagers. In fact, the law deserves to be called "The Black Teenager Unemployment Act." The minimum wage level has been on the rise in the U.S., and so has been the unemployment level among the low-skilled, especially the black teenagers. At the close of the World War II the minimum wage was 40 cents per hour. It increased to 75 cents per hour and \$1.00 per hour in 1950, and 1959, respectively. In the late 1970's it reached \$2.9 per hour, and now it is \$3.35 per hour. The teenage unemployment rate, while 10 per cent in the 1950's, is now well above 30 per cent. Plotting the unemployment levels with minimum wage levels brings home the disturbing facts about minimum wage laws. It is a discrimination law against low-skilled workers regardless of all good intentions.

One might have a difficult time determining the most relevant price to him: His own wage rate, let alone determining the price of a wide range of goods and services. But, that later determination is what we are asking government agencies to produce. We already have controls that we do not know what to do about. Less controls is what we need. As President Woodrow Wilson once noted, "liberty has never come from the government. The history of liberty is the history of the limitations of government power, not the increase of it." Dr. Fanek's advice to the government to refrain from enacting minimum wage laws is a judicious call for economic liberty. It definitely has my support.

U.S. primary objective in Mideast region: Support friendly states to counter Soviet 'threat'

Following are excerpts from U.S. Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci's description of his country's defence strategy for the Middle East and Southwest Asia regions submitted to the Congress February 18 by the Defence Department.

The Middle East/Southwest Asia Balance

THE oil wealth of the Middle East/Southwest Asia region, its political instability, and its proximity to the Soviet Union make it a target of Soviet aggression — both ongoing (as in Afghanistan) and potential. Additionally, Iranian terrorism, Tehran's indiscriminate mining of the Gulf and its approaches, and continued Iranian attacks on non-belligerent shipping in the Gulf also represent threats to U.S. interests. Our primary objective is to support the independence of friendly states in the region by assisting their military forces and developing capabilities of our own that would make any Soviet aggression costly, risky, and unsuccessful. The Soviets maintain significant ground and tactical air forces in their military districts contiguous to the region and are actively enhancing support bases for their naval presence in the Indian Ocean. Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan are continuing their efforts to subjugate the Afghan people. At the same time, they represent over 115,000 combat-ready troops forward-deployed in Southwest Asia.

The Soviet Union's proximity to the Gulf region provides it with a significant military advantage, although it is somewhat offset by the determination of the region's states to maintain their independence as well as by the region's extremely difficult terrain. The Soviets would have to sustain long lines of communication in attempting to seize the Gulf's oil-producing facilities. These communication lines would be vulnerable to air and unconventional ground interdiction; in addition, they would require a large occupying force to ensure local security.

As in the East Asian theatre, local military balances play an important role in arriving at an overall regional assessment. In the Iran-Iraq war, the Iranian manpower advantage continues to offset Iraqi predominance in force structure, most particularly in armour and tactical air weapons systems. The result has been a stalemate reminiscent of the Western Front in World War I, in which neither side has been able to gain the upper hand.

With Soviet assistance, Syria is continuing to upgrade its military forces with Soviet-supplied fourth-generation fighter aircraft and other advanced weapons systems. Syria's recognition of its disastrous economic situation, however, has forced a consolidation of ground force units and has resulted in an overall decreased military threat to Israel. The Israeli military modernisation programme is also facing harsh fiscal realities, however, requiring Israel to make difficult decisions regarding development and purchase of new weapons systems, as in the case of the recently cancelled Lavi tactical fighter. At present, Israel maintains clear advantages in readiness, command and control, and tactical air operations that should provide for its continued security.

India, China and Pakistan are the major military powers in South Asia, and open conflict between India and Pakistan as a result of long-standing differences is always a possibility. India has force structure advantages over Pakistan, and both countries continue modernising their military forces. India has successfully tested a nuclear device, and Pakistan may be developing the ability to do so.

The military balance between India and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC), in which India's advantage in armour is countered by a Chinese advantage in manpower, is greatly affected by the exceedingly hostile geography and climate along their common border which would impose severe limits on both operations and logistics.

We have improved our capability for projecting military forces to the region. Our U.S. Central Command develops specific plans and operational concepts focused on the region. Its potential force allocation comprises more than six ground divisions and over 600 tactical aircraft. To test these forces and concepts, we have conducted a number of successful exercises with friendly regional states, and our recent convoys/escort and mine-countermeasure operations in the Gulf are providing us with greater familiarity with regional operations. On balance, our improved capability to project significant forces rapidly to the region helps to deter Soviet aggression. Should deterrence fail, we can successfully defend the region with substantially fewer ground forces than the Soviets require to seize and occupy it, provided our forces are strongly supported by tactical air. Such a defence would depend heavily on participation and support by friends and allies in the region.

Collective Security:

The Near East, South Asia, and North Africa

Interests, Challenges, and Risks

The United States has critical security interests in these regions that have spawned the following objectives: Detering Soviet aggression; denying the Soviet access or influence in the region that might compromise the free world's access to energy resources; assuring the stability and security of friendly states, especially those strategically positioned relative to oil resources; inhibiting escalation or the spread of armed conflicts; and reaching a just, peaceful, and enduring settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The United States is facing serious challenges to its interests throughout these regions. Armed conflict in the Western Sahara, Libyan aggression in Chad, the Iran-Iraq war, Iranian disregard to freedom of navigation in the international waters of the Gulf, the continued Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and border clashes between South Yemen and Oman are jeopardising political and economic stability.

The most immediate threat to U.S. interests, however, remains Iran's intransigence in ending its war with Iraq, its determination to export terrorism, and its efforts to spread Islamic fundamentalism through force or intimidation in the Gulf states and elsewhere.

To counter this threat and safeguard our interests, President Reagan has approved a three-pronged strategy. One element involves vigorous U.S. diplomatic efforts to halt arms sales to Iran and end the Iran-Iraq war, as well as to reduce other regional tensions. The second element involves our support for the moderate Arab states, including escorting U.S.-flag vessels in the Gulf. The third element involves a halting of all U.S. imports from Iran. There are risks involved in this strategy, but we remain convinced that the risks of alternative courses of action are even greater. There is no risk-free way to protect our vital interests. Our best course is to minimise and manage those risks and to chart a steady course aimed at ending the war and communicating to our

friends — and our adversaries — our resolve.

Military Capabilities

Geographic military responsibility for the region is shared by three commanders in chief: The European Command, responsible for most Mediterranean littoral countries; Central Command, responsible for Southwest Asia; and Pacific Command, responsible for the South Asian countries. Following our decision to reflag 11 Kuwaiti tankers and provide them protection in the Gulf, we created the Joint Task Force Middle East (JTFME) to provide essential command and control for our increased naval presence, which includes the U.S. Middle East Force (MIDEASTFOR) that has been stationed in the Gulf for nearly 40 years.

Adequate levels of general purpose forces are available in the event of a regional crisis. Clearly, however, a timely and effective U.S. response to military threats will hinge on non-treaty relationships with friendly states for rapid force deployment and resupply, access to local facilities and support, and assistance from local military forces.

Regional Cooperation

North Africa — The United States has longstanding security relationships with Morocco and Tunisia. We maintain close contact with both countries as we seek to strengthen their military capabilities through equipment purchases and training, and as we negotiate for expanding access and transit rights for our forces during crises.

Near East — Our ability to respond to crises in the Eastern Mediterranean and Southwest Asia has increased during the past year, in part through our extensive security assistance relationship with Egypt and Israel. We are expanding bilateral joint military exercises with each country, negotiating prepositioning arrangements, and revitalising defence industrial cooperation. Small numbers of U.S. personnel are also contributing directly to preserving peace in the Near East by serving as members of the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai, and with United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation contingents in Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria.

The Gulf — Our protection of U.S.-flag vessels to assure freedom of navigation in the Gulf requires extensive host nation support. For example, Saudi Arabia supported deployment of U.S. AWACS aircraft since 1980 and has provided fighter support for our missions in Saudi airspace. During the Stark incident, the Saudis scrambled F-15s to protect AWACS aircraft and their oil facilities, assisted in our search and rescue efforts, and readied their military hospital to receive our casualties. Kuwait has offered free fuel, as well as maintenance support, for MIDEASTFOR ships escorting reflagged tankers. Bahrain has leased us facilities for an administrative support unit, and provided extensive support to our naval presence in the Gulf (MIDEASTFOR), principally through port visits, maintenance facilities, and commercial refuelling. Oman, the only Middle East country with which we have formal access agreement, conducts combined exercises with U.S. forces and provides support for our Indian Ocean naval forces.

Strauss dominates Bavaria, infuriates the left

By Katerina Syrimi
Reporter

PASSAU, West Germany — For three hours, West Germany's most controversial politician held forth, giving his 7,000-strong audience his usual mixture of blunt speaking, folksy wisdom and right-wing views.

Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss was among his own and at the end they yelled for more. The occasion was a rally of his Christian Social Union (CSU), held each Ash Wednesday for the past 35 years in this southern German town, where Strauss demonstrated he had lost none of his ability to arouse hero worship among his supporters, embarrass his political allies and horrify his opponents.

Views on issues such as South Africa that have made Strauss the bogeyman of the West German left for many years were received in Passau to rapturous applause, last week.

"I've come to hear Strauss because he's a strong politician, he always keeps his word and he tells people what he thinks," said Hans Schumacher, one of many

Strauss supporters who had gathered to hear their leader speak.

Strauss did not disappoint them.

A while for the whites

Referring to his recent fact-finding trip to South Africa, he said: "I am a convinced opponent of apartheid but I am certainly no foe of the white race. Sanctions would be the greatest stupidity imaginable."

In true Strauss style, the South African visit embarrassed many of his allies and provoked criticism from political opponents angered at his close ties with Pretoria's white rulers.

President P.W. Botha gave Strauss a warm welcome in Cape Town but South African black nationalists refused to meet him.

West Germany's opposition parties said Strauss's 10-day trip, undertaken to brief Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the problems of the region, had served only to bolster South Africa's isolated white-dominated government.

The visit was also condemned by many members of the Liberal Free Democrats, who together

with Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the CSU form an uneasy and often quarrelsome federal coalition.

If any of the Passau audience harboured doubts about the wisdom of the trip, they kept silent.

Many were dressed in traditional *lederhosen* (short leather trousers) and hats decorated with feathers, and consumed considerable quantities of Bavarian beer as their leader spoke.

Outside the hall, hawkers did a roaring trade in books by and about Strauss, and even pens bearing the portrait of Bavaria's favourite son.

Strauss was typically unrepentant about the South African trip and indicated that he would continue his often unorthodox foreign policy.

Anti-Communist in Albania

In the past this private diplomacy has taken the staunchly anti-Communist Strauss to Tirana — he is credited with a major role in establishing relations between Bonn and Stalinist Albania.

Last December saw him in Moscow where he met Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Many people would be very glad if I kept quiet but every Bavarian prime minister must take part in decision-making in Bonn," Strauss told the rally.

The promise seemed calculated to dismay the Free Democrats, who have clashed frequently with Strauss during nearly six years in coalition with the two other parties.

Many political commentators say Kohl himself finds it difficult to deal with Strauss, whose robust right-wing views are viewed with distaste by the liberal wing of the CDU.

Yet electoral arithmetic dictates that Strauss cannot be ignored.

His CSU regularly wins some 60 per cent of the vote in Bavaria, making it impossible for the CDU, which contests the 10 other states, to ignore it.

In excellent health at 72, Strauss shows no sign of wanting to withdraw from politics although few political analysts believe he will exchange the Bavarian premiership for a seat in the Bonn cabinet.

He has served in earlier West German governments as defence

minister and finance minister.

As befits a man who enjoys being seen in the company of world statesmen, Strauss is widely believed to be interested in only one portfolio — the foreign ministry, held by his long-time liberal opponent Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who shows no sign of stepping down.

For the foreseeable future, Strauss seems set to remain in power in Munich, ruling his Alpine state from the palace once occupied by Bavaria's former royal dynasty, which abdicated in 1918.

For his supporters at Passau, it is a welcome prospect.

"I'll come here (to the Ash Wednesday rally) even when he's dead to show that his work has not been in vain" said one.



Franz Josef Strauss

Jeffrey L. ...



Yasni, the 4-year-old Palestinian girl who was scolded by an Israeli soldier is being visited by British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock last week.

Every generation involved

The following article by Marie Colvin is reprinted from the Feb. 21 issue of *The Sunday Times*.

THE West Bank village of Bani Na'im echoed to the sound of Israeli gunfire as protest again flared in the occupied territories. Elsewhere on the West Bank a Palestinian youth was shot dead by Israeli soldiers.

Israeli troops opened fire in Bani Na'im without warning as youths hurled stones at them. Hospitals reported that two boys had been badly injured, one shot through a lung and another through the liver. A third was hit but not badly hurt.

When I arrived in the village a short while before the shooting, the first sign of violence was black smoke billowing from a flaming barricade of tyres and the screams and loud pops of tear gas canisters being fired.

The entire village seemed to be taking part in the incident as its inhabitants held the hills above Bani Na'im, hiding behind stone walls and houses and throwing stones at the soldiers.

Teenage boys on the roof of a house hurled rocks at the patrol

below while middle-aged women dressed in the traditional Palestinian long embroidered dresses and white head scarves ran back and forth handing them more missiles as ammunition.

As they gathered rocks, the women, who looked to be aged between 40 and 50, would sometimes stop and themselves throw a stone in the direction of the soldiers. An old man with a keffiyeh headscarf and a shabby suit jacket stood unprotected with a sling. He too heaved stones in the direction of the soldiers below. They flew only about 50 feet away but he seemed unperturbed.

After about 15 minutes, the soldiers fired tear gas directly at this group. The youths jumped from the roof and the women handed them onions, cut open as an antidote to the gas, and buckets of water to drench their faces. One older woman was overcome and dragged out of harm's way.

As this group was driven back, a group of about 40, mostly boys, came through the trees at the soldiers from houses 50 yards farther up the road. Another 20 or so boys stood their ground on

the road, heaving stones at the soldiers without any protection. Villagers moved forward again from all sides. The soldiers retreated.

The villagers were led by about 20 teenage youths and girls yelling to each other "yallah, shebab" or "let's go, kids". The older women followed them, clapping and yelling to each other "God is great".

Then a helicopter hovered low, and the patrol opened fire. Women began screaming and one pulled me down next to her in the courtyard of the mosque. She pushed herself up against the wall, wrapping her white veil around her knees and yelling with fear and elation.

The teenage leaders dived for the ground. The barrage continued uninterrupted for about 10 minutes, some in bursts of automatic weapons fire and some single shots. There was panic and screaming.

Two youths, struggling with the weight of an injured friend, headed up the hill from the direction of the patrol. They reached the mosque courtyard and laid

him on his back.

One of the older women ripped open his shirt and started pounding his chest. His eyes cleared and they felt him all over to see whether he had been hit. He could not talk from shock, but when a strong youth hefted him onto his back, fresh blood seeped through the shirt. Two other boys picked up his legs and ran him into the village away from danger.

The villagers retreated. The soldiers pulled back up the road and a tense calm set in.

Then an elderly man came up, holding out his hands wet with fresh blood. He said he had helped one boy and three more had been injured. Every generation in the village had been involved.

A crowd gathered around, with the panic subsiding now that the patrol had gone. Two girls were pushed forward because they spoke English. One said: "You must tell the world, we want to be free in our land. We want our freedom very very much." Villagers who spoke no English emphasised to her in Arabic what they wanted her to say.

Supernova bombarded humans with 10,000b neutrinos

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

BOSTON — One day last year, every person on earth was bombarded with 10,000 billion ghostly particles called neutrinos hurtling into space by the explosion of a star, an astronomer said Friday.

However, neutrinos are so incredibly small and elusive that they passed through buildings, people and the earth itself with barely a trace. Besides, said Boston University astronomer Larry Sulak: "We are recycled star dust."

The neutrinos are the remnants of a supernova, an exploding star, that suddenly appeared almost a year ago in the skies of the southern hemisphere.

Such explosions happen regularly, but this one was in the large Magellanic Cloud, a galaxy 1 million trillion miles away,

which is close by heavenly standards. It is the brightest, from an earthly perspective, in 383 years.

Scientists who have spent the past year studying the supernova discussed their findings at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

John Bahcall of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, said that last Feb. 23, every human on earth was showered with about 10,000 billion neutrinos from the exploding star.

Zero mass

However, people are constantly bombarded with neutrinos from our own sun, as well, and the added dose did no harm.

"Only 1 in 10,000 had as much as a single hydrogen atom changed by the neutrinos," Bahcall said.

The subatomic particles have

almost zero mass and no charge.

He said the supernova explosion was the equivalent of about one million billion billion atomic bombs of the kind that destroyed Hiroshima. That's more energy than a hundred stars shining off the earth's sun would give off in light over the lifetime of the universe.

Scientists at the conference said they were surprised and delighted that the supernova acted almost exactly like their theories said it would.

"It was expected to make neutrinos, and it did, right on schedule," said J. Craig Wheeler of the University of Texas in Austin. "The basic predictions have come to pass with this supernova."

The researchers said that when the star blew up, 99 per cent of its exploding energy was released in the form of neutrinos, while most of the rest was light. The neutrinos

reached earth three hours before the light. That light, spotted from a mountain top in Chile last Feb. 24, was the first sign for astronomers of the celestial catastrophe.

Later, though, scientists found traces of the sudden burst of neutrinos in two huge vats of water, one in the United States and one in Japan.

Sulak operates the U.S. experiment, a square tank of water five stories high that sits in a salt mine beneath lake Erie. The tank was built for another purpose — witnessing the death of protons — but it also showed that eight neutrinos from the supernova had collided with water molecules. The Japanese tank recorded 11 such collisions.

The experts believe that nickel was formed during the initial explosion.

Very informative and handy

By Inea Bushnaq

MANY YEARS ago, as a young college student home for the summer, I received a phoe call asking whether I would accompany some official guests from Britain to the ruins at Jerash. At that time, the four-lane highway linking Jerash to Amman had yet to be built and there was no regular airconditioned JETT bus service: a trip to the ancient Roman provincial city was much more of an expedition than it is today. A bit of luck then, that of all the idle English-speakers in Amman, the role of hostess should have fallen to me.

The foreign visitors proved to be the historian Arnold Toynbee and his wife. Two memories stand out from that day. First, the disappointment of finding myself, time and again, panting in the shade with Mrs. Toynbee, no match for the tireless, white-haired scholar who scampered over the fallen stones as lightly as a goat. And second, the satisfaction of hearing Toynbee say that he considered Jerash far more exciting even than Pompeii. I had not been to Italy and was gratified merely to hear, from the lips of authority and renown, that, indeed, the wonders of our little-trodden corner of the world were unique.

Though the modern traveller is spared the eight dusty hours over bumpy unpaved road which I remember from my teenage years, and though there is a government-owned hotel providing comfortable accommodations within walking distance of the Nabataean fortress city, once one enters the narrow, twisting passage between towering cliffs which leads into the "rose-red city half as old as time," one can shed a thousand years and more.

The ruins, however carefully studied and restored, have been left to present themselves to the viewer with a minimum of modern intrusion.

As recently as last June, two companions and I were able to feel as if we had the ruins to ourselves. The only living things that we encountered, as we toiled up the pink sandstone heights, were birds with feathers of an identical rosy hue and nodding clusters of pink oleander blooms. Then, walking back, a reed pipe sounded somewhere out of sight, playing the same simple melody over and over again, and from deep inside the Sig came the merry echo of hoofbeats where the young guides raced each other on horseback.

BOOK REVIEW

Since then, I have marvelled at the buried cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum and now understand Toynbee's remark. While the classical sites of Italy and Greece and the biblical places of the Holy Land had been the destination of a steady stream of pilgrims and sightseers for centuries, the archaeological remains east of the River Jordan have only recently come to be included on the tourist's itinerary.

It is one of the added charms of the antiquities of Jordan that they offer the modern traveller a vivid sense of discovery. I think it was the element of unfamiliarity, of surprise at what he found, which sharpened the edge of Toynbee's excitement on that occasion. "It is no minor event in one's life to visit a ruined and deserted city, where over three hundred columns are still standing amid fallen temples and other monuments of a former prosperous age," wrote an American visitor in 1875. More than a hundred years later, the words still apply.

With the publication this year of Rami Khouri's two guidebooks, *Jerash: A frontier city of the Roman East* and *Petra: A guide to the capital of the Nabataeans*, the traveller who prefers to explore alone, rather than follow in the wake of a local guide, can have his cake and eat it. He now may enjoy the illusion of discovering Jerash and Petra for himself while carrying information of all but every stone with him.

The two slim volumes (*Jerash*, 144 pp.; *Petra*, 160 pp.), with sturdy water-repellent covers and rounded corners, are made to slip into the back pocket.

They provide a wealth of detail in portable form. Anyone who has struggled from one patch of shadow to the next in the heat of mid-morning at Petra, ready to discard everything but the water-bottle, will appreciate the importance of the compact format.

For many years the chief reference book for the lay reader was G. Lankester Harding's *The Antiquities of Jordan*, first published in 1959.

Continuous excavation

Since the first concentrated excavations in the late 1920s and early 1930s at Gerasa, as Jerash was known by the ancients, archaeological activity has continued steadily.

The Jordan Department of Antiquities has been supervising the restoration of tumbled blocks of masonry and column drums to their original places with dramatic effect, as a glance at rare 19th-century photographs will prove.

Intricate mosaic paving has been uncovered in the floors of the numerous Byzantine churches dating back to the fourth and fifth centuries. More recently, a whole residential quarter from the Umayyad period of early Islam has been brought to light.

But perhaps the greatest achievement has been to keep the presence of scholarship discrete, so that the visitor's experience is still that of an explorer rather than a museum-goer.

Mercifully, there are not the endless notice boards and screens with printed information under glass which, in many countries, interfere with the first impression of a historical site. In the flush of evening, the colonnades of Jerash can play on the imagination as powerfully as the fabled Ram-of-the-Many-Columns, a city that was made to vanish under the blowing sands of Arabia in the moment of its pride and which, in the popular fantasy, occasionally reappears to the lonely desert traveller.

The Department of Antiquities has demonstrated the same good taste at Petra.

Once the Director of Antiquities, Harding has not been parted from his lifelong passion even in death. In accordance with his wishes, he lies buried within the Roman walls at Jerash.

More recently, there appeared Iain Brown's interestingly written books on Petra and Jerash. Excellent as these books are, they are not for the hiker's pack.

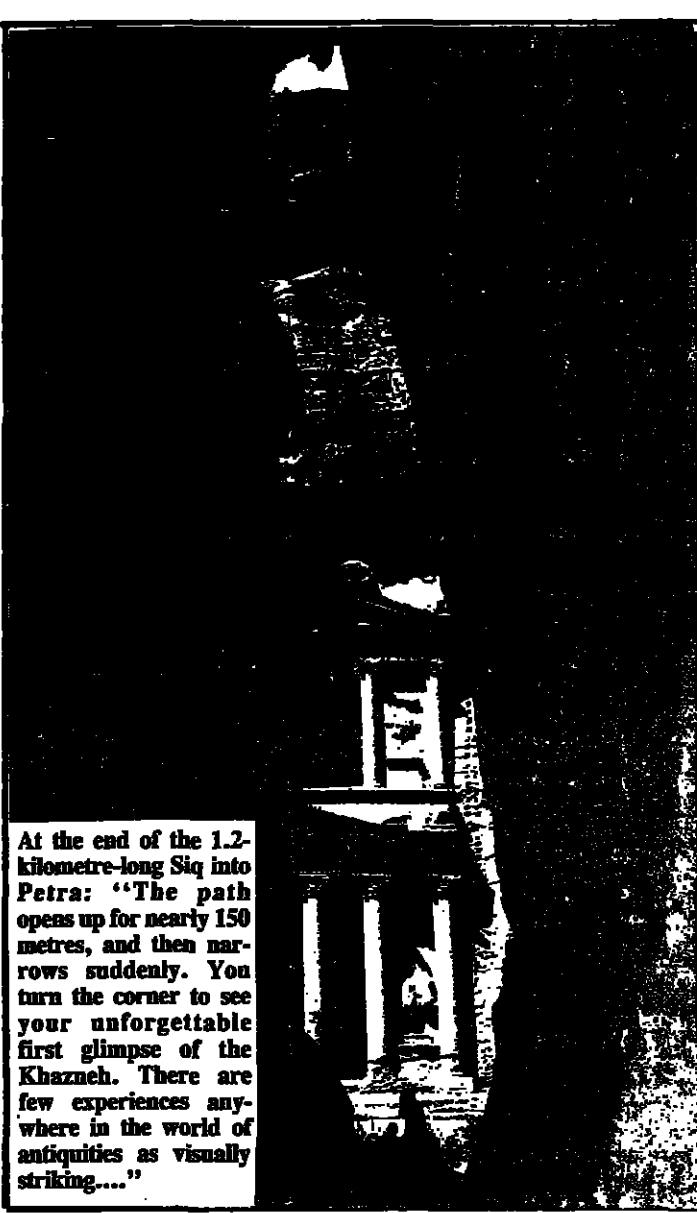
By producing the two new guidebooks, Rami Khouri and Longman have done the traveller — not to mention the Jordan archaeology buff — a much needed service.

Editor of the *Jordan Times*, Rami Khouri has extensive knowledge of Jordan, past and present. His articles on its antiquities and his beautiful photographs have appeared in many publications.

He also reports on Jordan's economic development and is the author of *The Jordan Valley: Life and Society below Sea Level*, an account of the agricultural development of the region, published in 1981 in association with the Jordan Valley Authority.

In preparing his guidebooks, Khouri has obviously spent much time exploring the two ancient cities himself. Retracing my path in Petra last June, for example, I find the directions precise and based on firsthand observation. ("After a few minutes, you pass a small stone bench to your left, underneath a big tree on the cliff-face.")

It is amusing to note how many points of interest we managed to walk right past in our ignorance. Now I hope for a fresh opportunity, soon, "seriously to explore



At the end of the 1.2-kilometre-long Sig into Petra: "The path opens up for nearly 150 metres, and then narrows suddenly. You turn the corner to see your unforgettable first glimpse of the Khazneh. There are few experiences anywhere in the world of antiquities as visually striking...."

Petra — this time with guide in hand.

Useful information

The two books are arranged along similar lines. First come a few pages of concise and important practical information about weather, means of travel and lodging, including relevant telephone numbers and prices.

Especially valuable here are the suggestions for the best use of available time, with alternative itineraries for half-day, one-day or three-day visits.

Himself a photographer (the books are generously illustrated with his photographs), Khouri offers tips on the best photographic conditions.

As a background against which to set the individual monuments, there follows a historical survey of the main events affecting the area. This is divided into the separate periods — Nabataean, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic — and includes a few words about the present-day residents.

A short section on the "rediscovery" of Petra and Jerash tells of travellers who have preceded the reader, from the lone explorer early in the last century to the latest archaeological team.

Here one learns when David Roberts made his famous drawings and that Doughty was oppressed by the necropolis at Petra. An amazing amount of information is efficiently packed into a small space.

Obviously, there is no room for

the impressions of the Italian cook who accompanied Edward Lear to Petra. His comment on the colours of the rock-cut city is perhaps worth quoting here: "Oh Signore, we have come into a world where everything is made of chocolate, ham, curry powder, and salmon."

The bulk of the two books is, of course, a careful description of the archaeological remains. Drawing on the work of specialists and scholars, Khouri presents the most up-to-date findings and evaluations.

He points out inscriptions and gives their meanings. Plentiful ground plans and line drawings enable the reader to visualise buildings in their original form. By grouping the monuments geographically into well-defined clusters, Khouri gives his reader full control over how to proceed.

Instructions are clear and one may start at any point, working forwards or backwards.

Clearly these two guides to Jerash and Petra belong in every well-stocked bookstore...and on the shopping list of anyone planning a visit to Jordan. Both are published by Longman Group Limited and reasonably priced at under seven pounds sterling.

Inea Bushnaq was born in Jerusalem and now lives in New York. She is the author of the book, *Arab Folktales*, published in 1986 by Pantheon Books, and is currently working on a study of an Arab rural community. This article is reprinted from *Jordan magazine*.

A foot in each hemisphere, attraction of invisible line

By Charles Lambelin
Renter

LATITUDE 0-0-0, Ecuador — Ecuador is cashing in on its geography, inviting tourists to stand on the equator and place a foot in each hemisphere.

More than 120,000 people come here each year, contributing millions of dollars to the debt-strapped country.

Few visitors can resist the temptation of having a snapshot taken on the invisible line dividing the world into northern and southern hemispheres.

A monument marks the spot and a restaurant on the 0-0-0 degree latitude is named "middle of the world."

Stalls sell "diplomas" certifying that the bearer "set his feet on the maximum line of zero latitude

of the planet earth."

It is also the spot where people weigh the least because they are furthest away from the earth's centre, where water dropping from a tap should fall without whirling — it would swirl to the left in the northern hemisphere, to the right in the south — and where at least once every month, both the sun and moon can be seen at the same time.

Visitors can stand at high noon — admittedly only twice a year, on the spring and autumn equinoxes — and cast no shadow because the sun is precisely overhead.

The equator, the parallel where the earth's diameter is largest, slices many countries — Colombia and Brazil in Latin America, Gabon, Zaire, Uganda and Kenya in Africa, Indonesia in

Asia.

In Ecuador it is a mere 10 miles north of Quito, less than a half-hour drive from the capital on a two-lane motorway in a town called San Antonio de Pinchicha.

Many visitors, associating the equator with dense tropical jungle, are surprised to find the monument in a dry valley surrounded by desert mountains. At an altitude of nearly 8,000 feet, the valley is often shrouded in mist and nights chilly.

The approach to the monument is a concrete promenade lined with 14 busts of explorers and topped by a five-tonne globe.

The cyphers 0-00-00 — for zero degrees, zero minutes, zero seconds — are carved on the 30-yard high grey stone pyramid. The monument also houses a museum of ethnology.

In fact, satellite observation has established that the equatorial line passes some 15 yards north of the monument.

The monument went up five years ago, replacing a similar, but smaller, pyramid built in 1936, the 200th anniversary of a French-Spanish scientific expedition to the country, which took its name from the equator in 1830 when it broke away from greater Colombia soon after independence from Spain.

The 1736-44 French expedition led by Louis Godin and mathematician Charles de la Condamine came to what was then the colonial Audiencia of Quito. Their goal was to determine the shape of the earth, to prove the suspicion that it was not perfectly round.

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Nykaenen, Roetsch fly and shoot their way into record books at Calgary

CALGARY (AP) — The "Flying Finn," once again soaring farthest off the ski jump, and an East German policeman who skis fast and shoots straight Tuesday became the first men ever to win both individual gold medals in their sports in one Olympics.

But East Germany's powerful women speed skaters failed to win a gold medal for the second straight race. Yvonne van Gennip of the Netherlands beat them with a world-record time Tuesday night in the 3,000 metres after Bonnie Blair did the same in the 500 Monday.

Soviet couples swept the top two places in the ice dancing, with three-time world champions Natalia Bestemianova and Andrei Bukin taking the gold and Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko the silver. Tracy Wilson and Robert McCall of Canada won the bronze.

The winners, skating to Borodin's "Polovetsky Dances," received three perfect 6.0 marks from the nine judges — but one 5.5 — for artistic impression, along with all 5.9s for technical merit.

Van Gennip, who had surgery on her foot less than three months ago, put on a burst of speed in the last lap and won in 4

minutes, 11.94 seconds, breaking the world record of 4:16.76 set by East Germany's Gabi Zange.

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

Defending gold medalist Andrea Ehrig of East Germany was second in 4:12.09 and Zange took the bronze in 4:16.92.

There was double happiness among the organisers. For the first time since the outdoor events began Feb. 14, there were no postponements for unfavourable weather Tuesday. And organisers said the long-range forecast favoured completion of all events by closing day next Sunday.

Finland's Matti Nykaenen, who won the 70-metre jump last week, overcame what some officials called the "psychological torture" of waiting out wind delays that began last Saturday as he defended his 90-metre Olympic title and set a hill record Tuesday. This was the first time one man had won both the 70- and 90-metre gold medals in one Olympics.

Finishing 55th and last in the 90-metre was Britain's myopic, one-man jumping team — Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards, whose hapless style gained him instant

celebrity at these games. Edwards also was in last place in the 70-metre jump. But he won't be back to "fly" again in Wednesday's 90-metre, which is restricted to four-man teams.

Biathlon

East Germany's Frank-Peter Roetsch, shaking off the fatigue of his winning race Saturday in

the 20-kilometre biathlon, triumphed by 15.6 seconds in Tuesday's 10-kilometre race. No other biathlete had won both individual events since the 20K was added to the Olympics in 1960.

The two joined Sweden's Tomas Gustafson in the ranks of double gold medalists in these games. Gustafson won the 5,000- and 10,000-metre speed skating races, setting a world record in the 10,000.

With Roetsch's victory and the Soviet victory in the ice dancing, the first-place Soviets stayed ahead of East Germany 8-7 in gold medals and 22-17 in total medals.

Kania falters

There was uncertainty, meanwhile, about a star who had been expected to win medals for the East Germans. In the 3,000-metre speed skating, Karin Kania falters with 600 metres left and finished fourth in 4:18.08.

After the race, Kania skated in



Matti Nykaenen shows why he is called the 'flying Finn'

pain to the infield and appeared to collapse on a bench, where trainers and coaches began to massage her legs.

She got up about 10 minutes later and began to walk gingerly around the carpet in the middle of the rink. Kania was not available for comment after the race. She was to try again for her seventh Olympic medal Friday in the 1,000 metres.

The 23-year-old van Gennip said of her victory: "Ehrig and Kania said in the newspapers that once they stopped, I could be the best skater. But I wanted to beat them before they stopped. 'I'm glad I did it in the Olympics.'"

Hockey

In Hockey, Austria beat Poland 3-2 for ninth place. It was Austria's first victory after four losses and a tie. Poland suffered its fourth straight loss, including a 6-2 victory over France that was taken away after forward Jaroslav Morawiecki tested positive for steroids.

France won 11th place in the 12-team Olympic hockey tournament by beating Norway. The two teams were tied 6-6 after the regulation 60 minutes and a 10-minute overtime. The French then outscored the Norwegians 2-0 when each time was allowed four free shots.

Wednesday's events

Switzerland seeks to return to winning form in the women's giant slalom Wednesday, and Nykaenen reaches for an unpre-



Michela Figini of Switzerland

cedented triple crown jumping.

Elsewhere, West Germany, Austria and Norway duel for gold in the final of the Nordic combined team event, and the medal round of the Olympic hockey tournament opens with defending champion Soviet Union facing off against Canada, world champion Sweden taking on Czechoslovakia and Finland battling West Germany.

On the icy slopes of Mount Allan, 95 kilometres west of Calgary, Switzerland was depending on Vreni Schneider, Maria Waliser and Michela Figini to steal back Alpine Olympic glory from Austria, West Germany and France. Switzerland's three neighbours have seven alpine medals among them including, four golds.

With no golds in women's com-

petition and only one in the men's, the disappointing and disappointed Swiss were rated a good chance to rebound in the women's giant slalom where they have shown strength in this season's world cup competition.

They will be challenged by a pair of French skiers, Catherine Quittet and Carole Merle, along with Yugoslavia's Mateja Svet, Austria's Anita Wachter, the combined gold medalist, and Blanca Fernandez Ochoa of Spain.

In Tuesday's 70-metre jumping portion of the team Nordic combined, West Germany took a narrow lead over Austria. But third-placed Norway could overtake the leaders with a strong showing in Wednesday's 3 x 10-kilometre cross-country relay finale.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Pele to play in AIDS fund-raiser

TOKYO (AP) — Former star Pele and other soccer greats from years past will play an exhibition match in Tokyo in April to raise funds for combating AIDS, organisers said Wednesday. Besides Pele, from Brazil, Pat Jennings of Northern Ireland, Michel Platini of France, Johan Neeskens of The Netherlands, Trevor Brooking of England, Teofilo Cubillas of Peru, Paolo Rossi of Italy, Eusebio of Portugal, Allan Simonsen of Denmark, Oleg Blokhin of the Soviet Union and coach Carlos Bilardo of Argentina will face a Japanese team in Tokyo April 22, they said. The Japanese team will be led by Kunishige Kamamoto. The visitors' average age is 38.2 years while the Japanese squad will be 36.7 years old on the average, according to the organisers.

Troubled Coe begins Olympic bid

LONDON (R) — Double Olympic 1,500 metres champion Sebastian Coe will return to a British track after nearly a year's absence when he competes for England in the annual indoor international against the United States next month. Coe, who is struggling to regain his form after an Achilles injury last season, will run over 3,000 metres at the March 12 meeting in Cosford as part of his preparation for the Seoul Olympics, the organisers said Wednesday. He will be anxious to improve on his first outing of 1988, a 3,000 metres race in Rutherford, New Jersey, in which he was lapped and failed to finish. Coe set a world indoor 800 metres record during the match against the Americans five years ago.

San Diego Yacht Club to field catamaran to defend America's Cup

NEW YORK (Agencies) — American skipper Dennis Conner said Tuesday his team was working against the clock to build a catamaran to defend the America's Cup against New Zealander Michael Fay's huge single-hulled boat.

Conner, in New York on a fund-raising tour, said a U.S. cigarette company was providing funds for two catamarans being shipped from France so that his crew could practice while the Sail America Foundation built the new boat.

"There's not a lot of boats around like the one we're racing," Conner told reporters. "It's unique. So we don't have anything to practice in. It would be like a golfer with no golf course," he said.

"The design is finished," he said. "We've got to go and build this boat now. We're working 24 hours a day."

Last November, a New York court upheld a challenge by Fay that will force the cup holders, the San Diego Yacht Club, to defend the trophy this year in 90-foot waterline boats. The yacht club had been planning a multi-national 1991 defence in the traditional, and far smaller, 12-metre yachts.

San Diego feels their catamaran will handily beat Fay's single-

hulled sailing vessel, after which they hope to return to the original timetable and 12-metre yachts.

"Michael Fay has got to be beat for the future of the cup," said Conner, sporting a silver pin in the shape of the America's Cup on the lapel of his blue yachting blazer.

"We are going with the catamaran with a crew of a half dozen against his (crew of) 40, so its going to be bizarre," Conner said of the races which will likely be held off Long Beach, California — the 1984 Olympic yachting venue.

"I don't think any sailors like what's going on. They like the idea of racing on the water in a fair competition," he said, referring to the probable September mismatch as "an oddball deal."

Conner, who headed the first U.S. losing effort in over 130 years of America's Cup competition in 1983 and won the cup back from Australia last year, said that when the court ruled in favour of Fay, Sail America asked for his help.

"The bottom line is that the America's Cup is in a crisis and it's not the American way to duck a crisis. We've got to respond to this sneak attack. This is my fifth America's Cup and I'll do what I can to keep it here," said the perpetually-tanned skipper.

Medal Table

CALGARY (AP) — Total medals after events Tuesday, 10th full day of competition at the Winter Olympics:

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
The Soviet Union	8	8	6	22
East Germany	7	6	4	17
Austria	3	3	1	7
Switzerland	1	4	2	7
Finland	3	0	2	5
The Netherlands	1	2	2	5
Sweden	3	0	1	4
The United States	2	1	1	4
Norway	0	3	1	4
Canada	0	1	3	4
West Germany	1	1	1	3
Czechoslovakia	0	1	2	3
France	1	0	1	2
Italy	0	0	1	1
Japan	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1

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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NOTICE TO ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS LIVING IN THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

American citizens residing in Jordan who have not previously registered with the embassy are requested to visit the American embassy Consular Section in order to register their presence in the country.

Previously registered citizens should telephone or contact the American Consulate to inform the embassy of their continued presence in the country and of any change in telephone, address or employment. Citizens who have not updated their registration within the past year will have their registration cards deleted from the files.

The American embassy is located in Jabal Amman between Second and Third Circles, directly across from the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. The phone number is 644371, ext. 238. P.O. Box 354.

The Consular Section is open to the public 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

FOR SALE

Jordan Express Co. Exhibition Police Academy Street, Amman announcing the sale of household effects with competitive prices, do not lose this opportunity.

AQUAMARINA HOTEL-CLUB



AQUAMARINA DIVING CLUB

PADI and CMAS the two world organisations for divers have recognised Aquamarina Diving Centre after 10 years of experience and over 35,000 dives as a qualified Diving Centre to issue licences for new divers as of Jan. 31, 1988, and for the first time in Jordan. We encourage all Jordanians to participate in this programme at the Aquamarina Diving Centre.

Please call tel. 03-316250

Watford beats Port Vale

LONDON (AP) — Watford, outplayed for long periods of the match, scored the goals that mattered and beat Third Division Port Vale 2-0 in an English F.A. cup fifth round replay Tuesday night.

Port Vale, which eliminated Tottenham Hotspur in the previous round and had the better of last Saturday's 0-0 draw against Watford, was punished in the replay for poor finishing as the first division hosts booked their

place in the quarterfinals.

After a bright start by Vale, Watford took the lead after six minutes with a goal by Trevor Senior. But the visitors kept attacking and Tony Cotton in the Watford goal had to make a number of smart saves.

Tottenham, United draw

In an English First Division game, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United drew 1-1.

IRS representative available

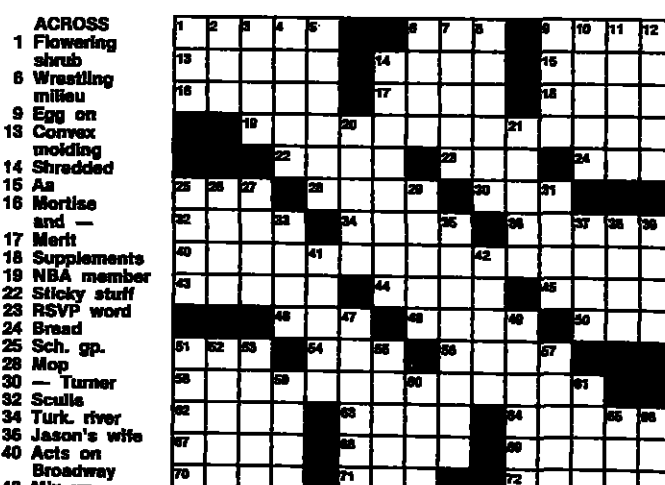
A representative of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be available on the following dates to provide information on U.S. income tax filing:

Feb. 28: Individual consultations
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. American Centre, 3rd Circle
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Consular Section, U.S. Embassy Taxpayers' seminar
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. American Centre

Feb. 29: Individual consultations
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. American Centre
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Consular Section, U.S. Embassy

You may call 644371 ext. 238 for further details

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72

Across

- Flowering shrub
- Wrestling style
- Egg on
- Convex molding
- Shredded
- As
- Mortise and
- Maui
- Supplements
- NBA member
- Sticky stuff
- RSVP word
- Bread
- Sch. gp.
- Mop
- Turner
- Sculls
- Turk. river
- Jason's wife
- Acts on Broadway
- Mix-up
- Chin. river
- Theater seat
- Ordinal suffix
- Fleming and
- Legume
- Dorothy
- Dove cry
- Check
- Be careful
- Winged
- Ethin being
- Hackneyed
- avia
- Caen's river
- Metric unit
- Dutch towns
- Inhabitants
- Ump's call
- Organic compound

Down

- Fats
- Contraction
- Anderson of TV
- Forward
- Buildings for short
- Dietrich sound
- Tapeworm
- Bowling item
- Fish sauce
- Pasty man
- Each
- Demi—
- Social
- Indiana
- Text. shrine
- Kitchenware
- Small pool
- Vicinity
- Iran religion
- Wild duck
- Ump's call
- Empire of Ethiopia
- Plummet
- Odds
- Crusling
- treat
- Baseball hits
- Old World bird
- Calm down
- Hip
- Cesar e.g.
- Zagora, Bulg.
- Unique things
- Deserve
- Stuff
- Sea bird
- Kernel
- Golf peg
- Stray

Cinema

CONCORD

Tel: 677420

SOUL MAN

Guess who's coming to college?



Performances 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

SOON !!!

TO OPEN WITH THE BEST OF 1988 FILMS

Performances 7:15, 8:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

OPERA

Tel: 675573

VIOLENT CITY

Performances 7:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

PLAZA

Tel: 677420

BREAKING ALL THE RULES

Performances 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 10:30

Dentists to give monthly financial backing to uprising

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) has decided that all dentists should contribute the salary of one day a month for supporting the Palestinian people's uprising.

The decision, taken by the JDA board which met under Chairman Walid Maraqa, said that the contribution will continue as long as the uprising lasts.

The JDA had earlier raised an unspecified amount of contributions and sent them over to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Municipalities plan to upgrade services

IRBID (Petra) — A budget of JD 90,000 has been allocated for the municipality of Kharija and Al Zawieh, according to Mayor Issam Alshara. The municipality has already floated a tender to asphalt around 25,000 square metres of the town's streets at the cost of JD 27,500.

In the Karak Governorate, Al Qasr municipality will spend JD 129,770 during 1988 on a number of development projects, according to a municipality official.

Businessmen from Jordan, Egypt open third meeting in Aqaba today

AOABA (Petra) — The third meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen Council opens here today to look into several issues related to the development and strengthening of cooperation ties between Jordan and Egypt, especially in the field of tourism.

The council, which will be opened by Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbara and the participation of Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni and Egyptian Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Foad Sultan, is expected to focus on the role of the private sector in both countries in the development of Jordanian-Egyptian relations in the field of tourism.

ism and also the progress on the Jordanian-Egyptian-Iraqi land transport.

The Jordanian Businessmen Society is scheduled to present a working paper at the two-day meeting dealing with economic relations between Jordan and Egypt and the role of the private sector in both countries.

The society had prepared a booklet on the economic and investment climate in Jordan, including information on Jordan's unique incentives for capital investment.

The booklet reviews facilities in Jordan for the transfer of profits and capital and exemptions offered by the Free Zone Corporation for investors.

The booklet also contains information on banking and financial facilities in Jordan and their role in financing development projects, in addition to the role of the Industrial Development Bank in financing productive projects and the synchronisation in tax laws with incentives and facilities provided by the Industrial Cities Corporation.

Ministry of Tourism sources said that the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee has called for expediting studies on needed procedures to legally institutionalise tourism investments after realising their economic feasibility.

CBJ explains situation of moneychangers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of moneychangers in Jordan encountered difficulties over the past few years largely due to violations of laws set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), according to CBJ Deputy Governor Maher Shukri.

He said the CBJ studied reports from auditors on the operations of the moneychangers, their financial position and reasons behind their difficulties and had left the matter to the Jordanian courts to settle their legal problems and to deal with their law violations.

The courts have appointed a special committee to supervise procedures pertaining to the bankruptcy of moneychanger Saliba Rizak and, through contacts with debtors and depositors, the committee is now conducting a settlement and a process of compensation with the concerned parties, Shukri noted.

As to Karsou, moneychanger, the CBJ has been in contact with the depositors and the debtors with a view to reaching a settlement, Shukri noted.

This is being done, he said, through a committee grouping major debtors, the owner and a CBJ observer.

Shukri said that a two-year process has been going on for settling the issue of the Jordan Timber Industries Company which had gone bankrupt.

U.N. report: 44 poor African states need extra \$5b a year to weather financial crisis

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Sub-Saharan Africa needs \$5 billion a year in additional aid and debt relief to weather its financial crisis, a group of financial experts said in a U.N. report released Wednesday.

"The African continent presents some of the most intractable development problems in the world," Sir Douglas Wass, chairman of the advisory group on financial flows for Africa, said in the report to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Without help, the political problems now confronting the region could become "insurmountable," the group warned.

The economic crisis is taking a bitter human toll. In much of sub-Saharan Africa per capita income is now lower than it was 20 years ago. Malnutrition and infant death are on the rise, jobs

are growing scarcer, opportunities for education or training are dwindling.

The report covers 44 countries south of Sahara, where the problems of chronic poverty, high birth rates, meager resources and political instability and poor management have been compounded by falling prices for commodities like cocoa and coffee, massive foreign debt and dwindling infusions of capital.

The 13 financial experts from around the world said they did not include relatively prosperous Nigeria in their report because its huge size and its oil exports make it a special case.

Sub-Saharan Africa got about \$15 billion in aid and debt relief last year — but it wasn't enough to stop an economic slide that began early in the 1980s, according to the financial experts.

The region needs at least \$5 billion more a year, they said.

The experts said they are hopeful that new initiatives by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank would yield about \$3 billion a year.

They proposed reducing interest rates on debt to provide another \$1 billion in resources and appealed to the international community to provide another \$1 billion in aid.

The experts said the internal reforms are essential to reversing the downward slide. They said donor nations will be more willing to help if African governments manage their economies, their aid and their debts better.

"Economic policies have rarely been fashioned to promote growth and efficiency and to improve the trade balance," the report said. "Aid has not always been well-employed and it has often been ill-coordinated."

The report grows out of a 1986 African recovery plan devised during a special session of the U.N. General Assembly and supported by the United States, the largest source of aid to Africa after France and Italy.

Perez de Cuellar said late last year that the recovery programme was not producing the envisioned results and assembled the advisory group to take a look at the situation.

The General Assembly plans to review the recovery programme in the fall.

Bahrain presses to open stock exchange in summer

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain is pressing ahead with plans to set up its first stock exchange and hopes to open a trading floor within about six months, the project's adviser said Wednesday.

Fawzi Behzad said conversion of an office block in central Manama should be completed within a month and the exchange would be opened between June and September.

"Our plan is to open in summer, but no date has been decided on yet," he told Reuters.

The exchange, replacing a telephone and telex market, was first proposed in August 1986 as part of a package of government measures to stimulate Bahrain's economy.

Initially 21 Bahraini-owned companies will be listed plus nine joint ventures between Bahrainis and nationals of other Gulf Cooperation Council countries — Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Gulf states have been trying to expand their financial markets, placing particular emphasis in recent months on issuing government bonds or treasury bills to bridge budget deficits.

Stock exchanges have developed more slowly.

In Saudi Arabia, a trading floor was opened for just three weeks last year and then closed because, bankers said, of objections from the kingdom's conservative religious community.

Oman plans to open an exchange later this year.

The only trading floor now operating in the Gulf is in Kuwait where bankers say weak earnings, competition from government debt offerings and October's worldwide slide in stocks have depressed prices.

Some Gulf-based bankers had hoped the "Black Monday" crash would boost Gulf stock markets by encouraging local investors to repatriate funds from major Western exchanges.

But share indices have painted a different picture. The index for Kuwaiti companies has slipped 9.2 per cent since early October.

Vatican employees declare 'moral' strike over salaries

VATICAN CITY (R) — Lay employees of the Vatican, protesting at a change in the way they are paid, said Wednesday they would stage an unprecedented "moral" strike by staying at their jobs but refusing part of their wages.

The Association of Lay Vatican Employees took the action to protest against what they said was a unilateral move by the Holy See to pay their salaries at the end of each month instead of the beginning.

The union, which represents 1,400 of the Vatican's 1,800 lay staff, called what they termed an "active moral strike."

The employees will work normally Monday but will not accept pay for the first three hours.

Greenspan sees slow U.S. growth but no recession

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said Tuesday U.S. economic growth would slow this year but he saw no indication of the country slipping into recession.

In testimony to the House of Representatives Banking Committee that accompanied a semi-annual report to Congress by the U.S. central bank, Greenspan said the economy was not entering a "geriatric" phase, despite 63 months of expansion.

He said companies were reporting their "order books are solid, really strong... really very impressive."

The Fed's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) said in its report that U.S. economic growth was likely to slow to 2.0 to 2.5 per cent in 1988 after a robust 3.8 per cent growth in 1987.

The report also said inflation was likely to rise by between 3.25 and 3.75 per cent in 1988, after a 3.0 per cent increase in 1987.

Greenspan told the committee the Fed had eased slightly on the credit supply a few weeks ago because of indications the economy was softening.

He said the effects on the economy of the Oct. 19 stock market crash might not be fully evident.

"I think it is fair to say that markets still are exhibiting a certain edginess, and we can't be sure yet that normal market functioning has been fully restored following the events of October," he said.

White House officials, particularly anxious to avoid a recession in presidential election year, were critical of Fed policy in late 1987, saying an overly tight policy might have contributed to the October stock market crash and underestimated the risks to adequate growth.

"We did not see ourselves as being tight," Greenspan said.

He said the Fed's 1988 economic growth forecast, which is in line with the administration's prediction of 2.4 per cent, assumed further progress in reducing the federal budget deficit. Continued fiscal restraint was crucial to fostering balanced growth and redressing global trade imbalances, Greenspan said.

The Fed report predicted U.S. unemployment, which stood at 5.8 per cent in December and January, would average between 5.75 and 6.0 per cent by the end of 1988.

Falling mortgage interest rates should give housing a boost in coming months, Greenspan said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Either investors were forced Wednesday to park their cars "anywhere in the streets" due to slippery roads or for being stranded in the snow or that some of them opted to stay in their warm homes leaving the trading activities for some other sunny day.

Overall trading was only 46,539 shares for a total volume of JD 83,866 spread over 82 contracts, of which 13, the highest number, was related to Universal Chemical Industries.

Jordan French Insurance recorded JD 19,990, the highest volume, while the highest number of shares traded, totalling 6,350, were those of National Shipping Lines.

The shares of 26 companies changed hands, but quite a few involved only low four figures in terms of number of shares or volume.

Prices were mostly steady.

No trading in development bonds took place.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7660/70	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2665/75	Canadian dollar
	1.6930/37	Deutsche marks
	1.9000/10	Dutch guilders
	1.3925/35	Swiss francs
	35.35/39	Belgian francs
	5.7256/95	French francs
	124/124.8	Italian lire
	128.80/90	Japanese yen
	6.0150/0200	Swedish crowns
	6.3710/60	Norwegian crowns
	6.4635/85	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	436.00/436.75	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares stood mixed in late trading with a similar opening on Wall Street providing little fresh incentive, dealers said.

The FTSE 100 stood 3.1 points up at 1,761.0 at 1530 GMT compared to last Friday's close of 1,729.8. Volume again turned low after slightly more respectable turnover Tuesday, with just 247 million shares traded by 1500 GMT. There was some disappointment that New York's market had again failed to break above its post-crash Dow Jones industrial average high of 2,052.

The FTSE 100 touched a low of 1,755.2 at 0934 in reaction to 1987 results from Barclays Bank.

The market showed an initial bid reaction to the Barclay's figures, which showed a 62 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £539 million after £895 million in 1986. However, a later reassessment of the data saw Barclays a net 9p higher at 483 after a low of 475.

North Yemen plans to raise oil production by mid-year

NICOSIA (AP) — North Yemen plans to increase production in its Marib-Jawf area to 175,000 barrels a day by mid-year, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Tuesday.

The weekly economic newsletter said current output was between 130,000 and 150,000 barrels a day.

It said original plans were for an output averaging 200,000 barrels a day but last-minute technical problems and damage to a moored storage tanker led to delays.

The newsletter also reported that North Yemen has approved a production-sharing agreement with the Geneva-based Petroleum International Corp.

It said the agreement covers approximately 31,000 square kilometres in the Marib-Jawf area relinquished by Hunt Oil last year, or about 25 per cent of its original concession.

The newsletter also said it had learned that negotiations were under way between Hunt Oil and the North Yemeni authorities with regard to the relinquishment by Hunt of another 12.5 per cent of its original concession.

It said the negotiations would be concluded shortly.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Flight Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't take any foolish risks. Focus your energy on the social aspects of life, as you will be unusually adept at pleasing the people around you today. Your sense of humor and charm are your most valuable assets.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): This is a good day to indulge yourself with a rather frivolous pleasure you've been denying. Get out on the town for some pleasure tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): You can make some great improvements to your property at this time. Your money is not up to par, so make notes to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): A group of progressive, dynamic friends can inspire your daily activities. Stop procrastinating and follow your star.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): You can accomplish a great deal today if you get an early start and contact the proper people. Be sure to drive carefully.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): You could make some interesting and profitable discoveries by catching up on your neglected correspondence this evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): If you need some information to progress more quickly in business, consult only those experts who have proven track records.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): An opportunity to greatly increase life is largely up to you! Your income will be present today, so be sure to take advantage of it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Some special thought for your mate may bring you more affection and success in love. This should be a very romantic evening for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A good friend can give you some ideas on how to improve your financial status. This should be a very romantic evening for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Invite some guests into your home who will improve your mood. This is a good time to invest in art which will beautify your surroundings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Pay some overdue visits to friends and relatives who may be feeling a bit depressed. Business interests can be quite successful today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): This is a good day for property improvements or any kind of social activity, be it entertaining at home or going out with your friends.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY: He or she will be very talented at any inventive manual work, and should be given special courses which will help to encourage ingenuity and creativity. Your progeny may tend to be a bit restless, so teach him or her to finish projects once they have been started.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your opportunity to greatly increase life is largely up to you!

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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Flight Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: been putting off lately. There will be a strong temptation to make some abrupt moves or changes in the early part of the day, but you would be wise to avoid doing so. Your friends and co-workers will be quite willing to cooperate.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You may be tempted to make a spiteful remark, but keep your temper and stay out of trouble. Use more than usual care while driving.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Avoid becoming involved in a risky financial scheme. Set up a new budget for yourself, and leave room for recreation and hobbies.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You may feel a bit confused this morning, so work on gaining control of your surroundings. Be sure to avoid any arguments today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Be sensitive to your mate's mood, as this person may not be in the best of humors. Enjoy the company of some good friends tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Don't be forceful in trying to gain a personal goal this morning, or you could get into trouble. Focus your energy on improving business interests.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): If you pursue a personal goal today, nothing which will later impugn your integrity. Steer clear of a superior who is in a bad mood.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't make any radical changes in your daily routine this morning. Clear up any credit matters you have

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't be fooled by a person who claims to have your best interests at heart, but is in reality trying to disrupt an important project.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A business associate may not be in the best of moods this morning, but avoid getting into an argument which would hamper your progress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): You may have some difficulties with your daily work this morning, but all will be brighter later in the day. Cooperate with co-workers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): If you feel you must criticize the actions of a good friend, make sure your comments are constructive. Catch up on overdue work tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): If the situation at home is not pleasant, get away with some friends and relax. Keep your temper in check today.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY: He or she will be extremely energetic, wanting to be involved in many activities simultaneously and always wanting to change accepted routines and procedures. With a good education, this tendency can be extremely beneficial, and your progeny could be very successful.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



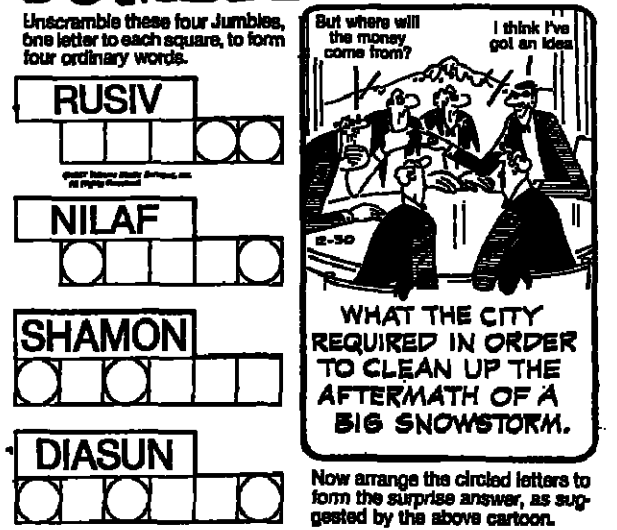
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE.



Answer here: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TWINE NAIVE EYELET MISUSE

Answer: The crowd did this when the winning team passed by—LET OFF "ESTER"

Pretoria bans political activities of 17 groups

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — In one of its harshest crackdowns ever, the government Wednesday banned all political activities of the country's largest anti-apartheid organisation, the United Democratic Front (UDF), and 16 other groups.

The Pretoria government also ordered that the main black labour federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), limit its activities only to labour issues and stay out of politics.

"Many of our people will see it (the restrictions) as a declaration of war," said Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his fight against apartheid.

"The government's idea of reform is to smash all effective possible political opposition in the country, no matter how peaceful and lawful, and to rule with a jackboot," Tutu said. He appealed to the United States and other Western countries to intensify economic pressure on South Africa.

The prime target of the new move is the UDF, formed four years ago to oppose a new constitution which allowed Indians and mixed-race coloureds into

parliament but left the black majority still excluded from national politics.

Multi-racial but predominantly black, the UDF claims three million members through about 700 affiliated groups.

Lawyers could not immediately clarify whether the ban affected all affiliates or just those specifically named in Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok's list.

The restrictions, announced on a special government gazette, do not technically outlaw the UDF and the other groups, but effectively ban them by prohibiting them from carrying on any activities not approved by Vlok.

The Rev. Allan Boesak, a co-founder of the UDF, said the government has acted out of frustration because its tough tactics during a 20-month-old state of emergency had failed to quell militant opposition.

"It is not possible, really, to ban the UDF," he said by tele-

phone. "The UDF is much less an organisation than a symbol, of the determination of South Africa's oppressed people to be free."

In addition to the UDF, which represents more than 600 anti-apartheid organisations with more than two million members nationwide, and COSATU groups affected by the ban include:

— The Azanian People's Organisation, the largest group espousing the black consciousness philosophy pioneered by Steve Biko, the activist who died in police custody in 1977.

— The National Education Crisis Committee, which has sought to promote "people's education" in which black communities would exercise greater control over their schools.

— The Detainees Parents Support Committee, which monitors detentions and provides support for relatives of people detained without charge.

— The Soweto Civic Association, the main anti-apartheid community group in the country's largest black township and a key factor behind the rent boycott which has persisted there for nearly two years.

Armenians continue protests in Yerevan

MOSCOW (AP) — A former political prisoner said 200,000 demonstrators converged Wednesday in Armenia's capital city of Yerevan to demand an extraordinary meeting of the republic's parliament on a nationalist dispute.

The demonstration followed a recent decision of the Communist Party's Central Committee denying Armenia's call for annexation of a region now controlled by the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan, activist Paruyr Ayrikyan told the AP in a phone call from Yerevan.

Widespread strikes and school boycotts accompanied the second day of unrest in the Armenian capital, and senior officials of the Central Committee went to the Caucasus mountains region to try to quell the protests, Ayrikyan said.

The Yerevan demonstrators, who were said by Ayrikyan and Moscow dissidents to number more than 100,000 Tuesday and twice that number Wednesday, demanded that the Armenian Supreme Soviet, the republic's nominal parliament, convene in extraordinary session to decide the annexation question.

The protesters claim the issue is out of the party's jurisdiction, and that the Central Committee decision violates the constitution.

Ayrikyan said Armenian Communist Party chief Karen S. Demichyan and other party officials had gone on local television and radio to ask for calm and to assure Armenians that the question was under consideration.

Outbreaks of ethnic tensions have occurred with increasing frequency over the past year as Soviet emigrate party chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev's call for "glasnost," or more openness in tackling the nation's social problems.

In a TASS news agency report Tuesday, the government took the unusual step of acknowledging a "mass meeting" in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan because of the dispute over which republic should control it. The report read on national television said the demands of the demonstrators "contradict the interests of the working people."

The government newspaper Izvestia Tuesday called for more public discussion of the dispute, acknowledging a "mass meeting" of protesters in Yerevan, student boycotts and the involvement of national party officials in trying to resolve the conflict.

Dole, Robertson get boost ahead of 'super Tuesday'

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. presidential contenders Robert Dole and Pat Robertson were given a boost on their way to the major "super Tuesday" primary elections of March 8 by two relatively minor contests in Minnesota and South Dakota.

Senate minority leader Dole was the big Republican winner in Tuesday's primaries in the two mid-western states. Former television evangelist Pat Robertson, also a Republican, apparently finished second in both votes.

Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt, winner in the South Dakota Democratic contest, and Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, first in Minnesota, strengthened their claims to be leading contenders for their party's nomination.

Vice-President George Bush, the Republican frontrunner in national opinion polls, quit campaigning in South Dakota and made little effort in Minnesota in order to focus on the "super Tuesday" primary, which involves most southern states.

Primary elections, part of the presidential selection process, are held in individual states so voters can select delegates to support their preferred candidates at national party conventions in the summer.

The results in Minnesota and South Dakota were unsettling for

Bush, who is facing a stiff challenge from Robertson in the south and has now been beaten by the former preacher in three of the first four voter tests.

Dole, who said Bush's decision to opt out of the midwest contests demonstrated he would be a weak national candidate, hopes the two wins will help him in the south. But his organisation there appears to be the weakest of the three top candidates.

Dole needed his latest victories after a second place finish in last Tuesday's New Hampshire primary.

He captured 57 per cent of the South Dakota vote and more than 40 per cent of the Minnesota ballot.

Robertson had about 28 per cent in Minnesota compared with 11 per cent for Bush. With a handful of votes still to be counted in South Dakota, he had 19 per cent against Bush's 18 per cent.

In the Democratic contest, Gephardt beat Dukakis 45-to-30 per cent in South Dakota and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore was third with nine per cent.

In Minnesota, Dukakis had about a third of the vote with black rights leader Jesse Jackson and Illinois Senator Paul Simon battling for second with about 18 per cent. Gephardt had just eight per cent.

U.S. Senate committee probes alleged FBI abuses

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Intelligence Committee has opened a probe into alleged abuses of power by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) during its probe into an American group opposed to U.S. policy in El Salvador.

"The American people want to make certain that the authority of the FBI is not abused in terms of legitimate and rightful domestic political dissent," Senator David Boren said as he opened the first of what could be several private and public hearings into the affair.

Documents released last month showed that hundreds of Americans and several organisations came under FBI surveillance from March 1983 to June 1985

because of their links to the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

CISPES is a private group created in 1980 to oppose Reagan administration policies in El Salvador.

Some legislators and civil liberties groups are charging the FBI overstepped the legal bounds of domestic surveillance and may have violated rights to free speech and legitimate political dissent guaranteed in the U.S. constitution.

"It's simply unacceptable for the FBI to conduct sweeping investigations of American citizens... unless there is a clear and present danger to the national security," Senator Bill Bradley told the hearing.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Barcelona gypsies fight Africans

BARCELONA (R) — More than 100 Africans and gypsies were detained in Barcelona after street battles over adulterated drugs, the provincial governor's office said Wednesday. The spokesman said two gypsies died after consuming adulterated drugs, and their relatives attacked African drug-peddlers in revenge Monday. He said most of the foreigners arrested came from North African countries and were likely to be expelled from Spain.

U.S. navy rescues whale in Gulf

ABOARD THE USS TRUXTUN (R) — The U.S. navy mounted a surprise operation in the Gulf of Oman Sunday — rescuing a huge sperm whale trapped in several hundred metres of nylon fishing net. "In my years of naval service I have been called upon to perform many tasks, but nothing like this," said Captain Clinton Conway, commander of the guided missile cruiser Truxtun. A helicopter from the aircraft carrier Enterprise spotted the struggling 13-metre, 30-tonne female whale and radioed the Truxtun, which was 50 kilometres away. When the cruiser reached the scene, it lifted the net with hooks and secured the whale alongside the vessel. A team of men then set about cutting the creature free. Four hours later, with a strand of net still caught between its teeth like dental floss, the whale swam free.

Man threatens Reagan by mail — from jail

PITTSBURGH (R) — A 19-year-old Pittsburgh man pleaded guilty to threatening President Reagan via a letter he wrote while serving time in the county jail. Paul Zagowski pleaded guilty in federal court Monday to writing Reagan a letter "containing a threat to take his life or inflict bodily harm upon him," said a statement issued by prosecutors. Zagowski admitted writing the letter in Pittsburgh's Allegheny county jail last November while awaiting trial on related charges, they said. If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The full text of the letter was not released.

Weinberger receives British knighthood

LONDON (AP) — Caspar Weinberger received an honorary knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II Tuesday, the highest royal honour Britain has bestowed on an American. The brief, private ceremony at Buckingham Palace didn't mean the former U.S. defence secretary would become "Sir Caspar." That accolade is reserved for the queen's own subjects. But it was Britain's way of saying thanks to an exceptionally good friend. Asked why he got the knighthood, Weinberger replied: "I haven't the faintest idea." The announcement Feb. 1 cited his "outstanding and invaluable contribution" to Anglo-American defence cooperation, and his "unfailing support and assistance" during the 1982 Falkland Islands war between Britain and Argentina.

Taj Mahal to close once a week

NEW DELHI (R) — The Taj Mahal, India's most famous tourist attraction, may soon close one day a week for maintenance. P.V. Narasimha Rao, minister for human resources development, quoted by Indian newspapers Tuesday, said the proposal would be introduced in parliament during the current session. The white marble tomb complex in Agra, 200 kilometres south of New Delhi, attracts more than three million visitors every year. The main building, with a minaret at each corner and stately central dome, houses a mock vault, while the real tomb is underneath in a tiny, unventilated mortuary chamber. Plans call for closing this to tourists whose breathing, sweat and stockinged feet can damage it beyond repair. All visitors must remove their shoes before entering.

Ortega proposes new talks

NICARAGUA (AP) — President Daniel Ortega has sent a strongly worded letter to Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bravo criticising what he called an abrupt end to ceasefire talks with the contra rebels, and proposing that another round start Friday.

"Taking into account what you have repeatedly said that each day that passes in Nicaragua 25 Nicaraguans die as a result of the war of aggression that our country suffers, the government views with consternation the suspension of the planned meeting," the president said in his letter Tuesday.

Obando Y. Bravo said he took issue with parts of the president's letter and was looking into whether talks could be held later this week.

"I am not a military man disposed to take orders nor a messenger that fulfills orders. I am a mediator," the cardinal told Jour-

Seoul students stage attack to protest inauguration

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korean students armed with homemade bombs seized the U.S. Information Service office Wednesday in a protest against Thursday's presidential inauguration and the building was shaken by two explosions before police overpowered the attackers.

Officials said there were no reports of injuries.

Two of the students, holding explosive devices and draped in South Korean flags, stood at shattered windows on the second floor yelling "Yankee go home" as riot police quickly raged the building in the heart of capital.

The students hurled at least one bomb into the street, according to witnesses.

Police officials said the students claimed they were armed with 18 homemade bombs. An official said the devices were crude chemical concoctions.

Italy tentatively agrees to take American jets forced out of Spain

WASHINGTON (R) — Italy's political leaders have agreed in principle to allow U.S. F-16 fighter planes that are being forced out of Spain to be based in Italy, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

The official, who returned with Secretary of State George Shultz from two days of talks with Soviet officials in Moscow, spoke on the condition that he not be identified.

He said the United States expected to negotiate a formal agreement with Italy on the F-16s within the next six months.

About 72 of the fighters are located at the U.S. air base at Torrejon near Madrid. But under a new defence agreement with Spain, which insisted the planes be removed from its territory, the air wing will be moved.

The United States and North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) had wanted to keep the wing in Spain, arguing that Torrejon was an important venue from which to defend the Western alliance's southern flank.

The U.S. official said Comiso, Sardinia and a location near Brindisi which he could not recall were the alternate sites in Italy now being studied for re-basing the planes.

Certain improvements would likely have to be made at all the locations, including construction of a runway at Comiso and housing for military dependents at the other spots, he said.

The U.S. Congress has passed legislation prohibiting the United States from spending money to relocate the air wing, saying the cost should be borne by the NATO.

Protesters accuse Aquino of 'betraying revolution'

MANILA (AP) — About 20,000 leftist demonstrators marched on a highway leading to a suburban military camp Wednesday and accused the government of betraying the revolution that swept President Corason Aquino to power two years ago.

About 200 policemen blocked the road leading to Camp Crame and helicopters hovered overhead. But the rally, the biggest anti-government demonstration this year, was peaceful.

The marchers included students, workers, farmers, nuns and priests. They chanted "Dis-mantle the U.S.-Aquino regime" and carried effigies of Aquino and Uncle Sam.

Red banners said, "Advance the people's genuine revolution," and one poster read: "Cory — closet dictator."

The protesters denounced what they said was Aquino's failure to implement the sweeping economic and political reforms she had promised during the 1986 presidential election.

Crispin Beltran, head of the militant May 1st movement Labour Organisation, told the rally: "We had high hopes when Cory Aquino said she would be the exact opposite of (ousted president Ferdinand) Marcos. But after two years, we have no more hope that she will fulfill her promises."

Noriega's daughter, son-in-law briefly detained at U.S. base

PANAMA CITY (R) — The daughter of Panamanian military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega and her husband were stopped for speeding on a U.S. military base, handcuffed and held for an hour, a U.S. spokesman said Tuesday.

The incident took place the night before Panamanian police briefly detained 30 U.S. servicemen around the city, accusing them of violating an agreement not to wear uniforms while riding motorcycles in the capital.

The U.S. military spokesman said the couple were detained Sunday at the Albrook air force base after a car driven by the son-in-law, whose name was not released, was alleged to be travelling over the speed limit of 40 kilometres per hour.

The spokesman said the four occupants of the car, including Noriega's daughter, Sandra Noriega de Buchamps, refused to show identification and became "verbally abusive."

U.S. military police then handcuffed the four and took them into custody until they were turned over to Panama Defence Force (PDF) representatives, the spokesman said. No charges were filed against them.

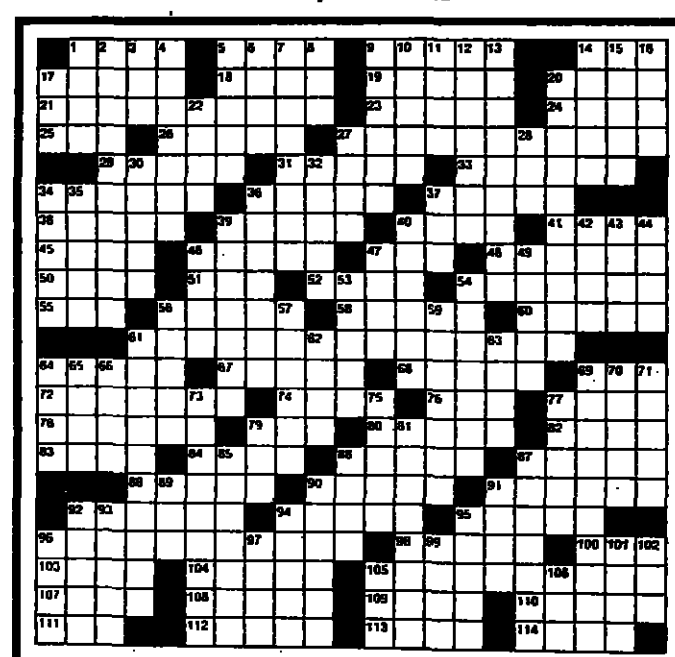
The 30 Americans were detained at various points around the city Monday morning as they made their way to work, the U.S. spokesman said. They were released in less than two hours and no charges were lodged against them, he said.

The U.S. spokesman declined to comment on whether there was any connection between the two incidents.

PDF spokesmen were not available for comment. Relations between Panama and the United States have steadily worsened since Noriega began being publicly accused last summer of involvement in drug trafficking and corruption. He is under two U.S. indictments on drug charges.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Kesterson

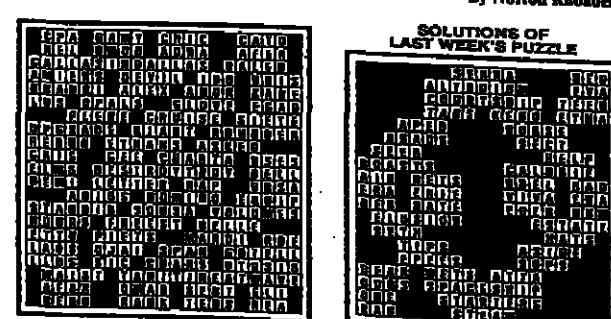


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Beetles locked in battle picked up by man and stuck in empty bottle.
2. Proud thief paroled a scribe, then stole a roll for dessert.
3. Pudge youth who may not grab the brass ring can still come up with gold.
4. Builder built new red barn on wet land for watermelon farmer.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. "ONZASIK NO MUZAKS." OU PUB SKWY
MKG NG NS LZTIKO ZNEK KZKWTGUYO,
OBKRYVTEKGO UY AKLYTGKSG OGUYKO
TSP RUYK.
—By Len Sherry
2. W TWZPOT EOPKXN XL ZMWN DOLQTNL
ZMOR KURSODOLAOR SON WMOWE UP NMO
Q.L AXRN.
—By Barbara J. Rogg
3. FEAR VYFLUID VYFLUIDIC COVM EC
DIAYLMYSHE LIWLUID YOW SICK
LCRYMHEKWHCK.
—By Orla A. Foranberry
4. PER LESSER BOOS GPO ICLHOYO NECHG
HOBSONGI GPO GRYOI.
—By Norton Rhodes



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

LIGHTNER DOUBLE CAN BE COSTLY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 7 5 3
♥ A K
♦ A J 8 6 2
♣ K 2

EAST
♠ 9 7 6 4 2
♥ K J 10 8 3
♦ 8 6 4
♣ J 9 7 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 9 6
♥ A Q
♦ Q 10
♣ K Q 10 4 3

The bidding: North South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ DBL 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

If your opponents are sane, you don't expect to defeat a slam they have bid freely by more than a trick or two. Therefore, you won't get rich doubling for penalties. For this reason the late Theodore Lightner decided that the double could be used more profitably as a lead-director, usually of dummy's first-bid suit.

The convention has just one drawback it warns the potential declarer that he is about to receive a possibly killing lead. That might al-